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PRESIDENT AS-SADAT CONTINUES VISIT TO WEST EUROPE

For reportage on President as-Sadat's visits to Austria and France, see the Austria and France sections of the 13 February and subsequent issues of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

Meets Newsmen in Salzburg

NC111202Y Cairo MENA in Arabic GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Salzburg, 11 February--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has said that his visit to Salzburg is for the purpose of briefing Austrian Chancellor Kreisky on the latest developments in the Middle East situation. President as-Sadat was answering questions from newsmen, who gathered around him in front of Klessheim Castle. He said that he had talks in the FRG and that he will be resuming his tour with visits to Romania, France and Italy.

Asked whether he will be meeting with Israeli opposition leader Shim'on Peres during his stay in Salzburg, President as-Sadat replied in the affirmative. He said: I thank my friend Kreisky for arranging the meeting.

Asked whether he is optimistic, President as-Sadat said: You must have heard that I am optimistic by nature. President as-Sadat said that Salzburg had been a turning point when he had met U.S. President Ford there. This meeting led to the second disengagement agreement. Therefore, Salzburg has given an impetus to the peace process. I hope that a final impetus to the peace process in the Middle East will be given in Salzburg once again. Asked what he expects from his meeting with Peres, President as-Sadat said: I cannot say anything before the talks take place.

Meets Kreisky, Shim'on Peres

NC111223Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Salzburg, 11 February--President Anwar as-Sadat met with the Israeli opposition leader, Shim'on Peres, at 1240 local time today.

The meeting followed President as-Sadat's meeting with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, which lasted about 1 hour. President as-Sadat is expected to meet again with Chancellor Kreisky after his meeting with Peres. President as-Sadat and Chancellor Kreisky are expected to hold a joint press conference before President as-Sadat leaves Salzburg for Bucharest.

Press Conference Statement

NC112224Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2149 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Salzburg, 11 February--President Anwar as-Sadat has stated that his talks with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky today constituted a new step in the cooperation between Egypt and Austria on the road to peace and security for all nations. In a statement he made at the beginning of the press conference he held at the end of his talks with Kreisky in Salzburg, President as-Sadat emphasized his determination to continue on the course of peace with all his energy. Following is the text of President as-Sadat's statement at the beginning of the press conference:

Chancellor Kreisky, I was extremely happy to meet with you again in your beautiful country The talks we have just held constitute a new step in our cooperation on the road to peace and security for all nations.

You have played a very positive and constructive role since you assumed your responsibilities. It is very clear that your first and basic commitment is to peace. You have given the best example of an impartial country. Your loyalty is always to justice. With your clear vision and wisdom, you have understood the strong link between peace and stability in the Middle East and Europe.

Recent days have confirmed the connection between the two areas in various fields. As I have told you, I am determined to proceed on the road of peace with all my energy. You fully understand the recent developments which have threatened the chances for peace, but people who work for the cause of peace are never discouraged.

I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to you and, through you, to the Austrian people, for the good sentiments shown toward me, especially after our visit to Jerusalem. We shall never forget our visit with you in your beautiful city in 1975 when I met with U.S. President Ford.

We harbor good feelings for President Kirchschlaeger, yourself, the people of Austria, and this beautiful city where the peace efforts have gained momentum.

Our talks today were fruitful. It was an extremely good opportunity that you arranged my meeting with Shim'on Peres. We resumed our talks which were started in the Knesset in Jerusalem. I hope that we will resume the peace talks, particularly since I have invited Mr Peres to visit us. I have reviewed with him in detail the problems facing us. I hope that we will resume this dialog in the future.

Chancellor Kreisky, allow me to address a few words in German to our friends in Austria: I was extremely happy to visit your country and be the guest of your beautiful city, Salzburg. Your city has contributed much to world civilization, and its people have done much for peace, justice, and understanding among nations.

Question-Answer Session

NC1123197 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2226 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Salzburg, 11 February--President Anwar as-Sadat has expressed hope for a new development in the peace talks between Egypt and Israel after U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton resumes his diplomatic mediation between the two countries. President as-Sadat was speaking at a press conference he held jointly with Chancellor Kreisky after their talks in Salzburg.

Asked when he would send Egypt's delegation to Jerusalem to resume the talks, President as-Sadat said that it was agreed during his visit to the United States that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Atherton would resume the diplomatic mediation between Cairo and Israel and that at this time nothing has been decided on sending the Egyptian delegation. President as-Sadat added: We hope that when Atherton resumes his mediation there will be a new development.

Asked whether he has the U.S. President's agreement to supply Egypt with American arms, President as-Sadat said that this has not happened yet since the U.S. Congress must agree first.

Asked whether he will invite Menahem Begin to visit Egypt soon, his excellency said that Egypt will wait for Atherton's mediation mission between Egypt and Israel, during which we could consider the existing differences.

The president added that he has not sent an invitation to Menahem Begin, although inviting him to Egypt is not ruled out.

Asked whether during his meeting with Shim'on Peres he was given a message from Menahem Begin, President as-Sadat said that Peres did not give him any message from the Israeli Government. He added: We resumed the talks we started in the Knesset during my visit to Jerusalem. My talks with Peres were not negotiations.

President as-Sadat spoke about the attacks launched against him by certain Arab leaders after his initiative. He said this did not affect the peace momentum. He said: My mission is sacred. Even if it is to be my last mission, I will still proceed with it.

Answering another question about his talks with Shim'on Peres, he said that the purpose of the talks was to resume the discussion which started in the Knesset during his visit to Jerusalem. He added that Peres is not authorized to negotiate.

President as-Sadat said that the spirit of his initiative has been and continues to be one of peace, friendship and love, which are the principles that prevailed during his talks with Peres. President as-Sadat added that when the opportunity avails itself we will resume the dialog.

Chancellor Kreisky said during the press conference that he supports everything contained in the joint statement issued on the recent talks between Presidents as-Sadat and Carter.

At the beginning of the press conference, Chancellor Kreisky made a statement in which he wholeheartedly welcomed President as-Sadat's brief visit to Salzburg. This visit, he said, was an opportunity for President as-Sadat to brief him on the Middle East developments and the aims of his policy.

Shim'on Peres, who attended the press conference, also made a statement in which he thanked President as-Sadat and Chancellor Kreisky for giving him the opportunity to get an accurate picture of the Middle East situation. He said that he had informed Menahem Begin about his expected meeting with President as-Sadat. Peres said that Begin welcomed this meeting. He also said that President as-Sadat gave him a comprehensive and detailed review of the situation and stressed that peace concerns all parties in the area.

Peres thanked Chancellor Kreisky for inviting the socialist parties to Austria to exchange views on the Middle East problem.

AS-SADAT PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO ROMANIA 11-12 FEB

For reportage on the official visit to Romania by President as-Sadat on 11 and 12 February, see the Romania section of the 13 February and subsequent issues of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

Talks With Ceausescu Assessed

NC101909Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1828 GMT 10 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Bucharest, 10 February--President Anwar as-Sadat will arrive in Bucharest at about 1715 Cairo time tomorrow for a 2-day friendly visit to Romania at the invitation of President Nicolae Ceausescu. MENA has learned that the talks between the two presidents will begin immediately after President as-Sadat's arrival, and will be followed by an official dinner which the Romanian president will give in honor of President as-Sadat.

The two presidents will resume their talks on Sunday morning, before President as-Sadat's departure for Paris that afternoon.

According to reliable sources in the Romanian capital, the talks between Presidents as-Sadat and Ceausescu will cover the current developments in the Middle East situation, with special stress on the negotiating process between Egypt and Israel which began with President as-Sadat's peace initiative. This initiative occurred less than 10 days after the president's visit to Romania in November. The talks will also broach the possibility of the Romanian president playing a part in maintaining the present momentum toward progress in the talks aimed at establishing peace in the Middle East.

In their sixth direct meeting, which is also the second meeting by the two presidents in less than 100 days, the two leaders will also review the results of President as-Sadat's talks during his trip to the United States, Britain, West Germany and Austria.

Presidents as-Sadat and Ceausescu will also discuss what help the Romanian president could provide to maintain the momentum toward achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, on the grounds that President Ceausescu has friendly relations with both sides. They will discuss international developments inasmuch as these developments may help in the promotion of peace in the area. The two leaders will also discuss bilateral relations.

Arrangements for President as-Sadat's visit to the Romanian capital have been completed.

Meeting With Ceausescu

NC112243Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2223 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC/LD

[Text] Bucharest, 11 February--President Anwar as-Sadat held a 10-minute meeting with Romanian President Ceausescu on his arrival at the Spring Palace in Bucharest tonight. After the meeting the Romanian president left the Spring Palace.

The official talks between Presidents as-Sadat and Ceausescu will begin at 1000 tomorrow. The talks will start with a closed meeting between the two presidents, who will later be joined by the members of the two delegations.

At the beginning of the 10-minute meeting between Presidents as-Sadat and Ceausescu, President as-Sadat said: "I wish this visit had taken place during the day so that I could see this part of Romania--the road from Constanta to Bucharest." President as-Sadat also asked about the health of President Ceausescu.

The talks between Presidents as-Sadat and Ceausescu tomorrow are expected to deal with the Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations, and particulary with the role the Romanian leader might play in maintaining the momentum, since he is considered a friend of both sides.

The two presidents will also review President as-Sadat's talks with the leaders of the countries he has visited thus far, the current developments in the international situation, and the need to exert sincere efforts for the success of President as-Sadat's brave peace initiative for the sake of the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

A joint statement is expected to be issued on the talks. The two presidents are also expected to hold a joint press conference for the scores of journalists who are covering the visit to Bucharest.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil told a MENA correspondent that President as-Sadat's visit to Romania is of special significance in view of the fact that the peace initiative was launched after President as-Sadat's previous visit to Romania in November.

On his arrival at the Spring Palace President as-Sadat was received by--in addition to President Ceausescu--Vice President of the Council of State Emil Bobu; Deputy Prime Minister Gheorghe Oprea; Gheorghe Pana, secretary of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party; Foreign Minister George Macovescu; head of the Bucharest Municipality Dinca; Romanian presidential adviser Vasile Pungan; and a number of party officials and senior army officers.

Bucharest television has broadcast the news of President as-Sadat's arrival and the brief meeting he had with the Romanian president as the leading story of its evening newscast. Romanian television said in its newscast that [words indistinct] is a continuation of the dialog between the two leaders on the highest level.

Joint Statement Issued

NC1218517 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 February--Egypt and Romania have stressed the necessity of continuing the efforts aimed at achieving a lasting and just peace in the Middle East on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied since June 1967 and the achievement of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish an independent state.

The two sides agreed that it would be useful for all parties concerned to participate in the Cairo preparatory conference which was convened at the invitation of President as-Sadat and in the meeting which the UN secretary general proposed in New York or in any other place to make new preparations for the resumption of the Geneva conference. Egypt has previously agreed to this proposal. This was revealed in a statement issued tonight in Cairo and Bucharest on the talks held between President Anwar as-Sadat and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. Following is the text of the statement:

Talks were held between President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and President Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, on 12 Feburary 1978.

At these talks, the two presidents discussed the bilateral relations between the two countries in various fields and asserted their determination to continue progress in the development of cordial relations on the basis of mutual interest for the progress of the two countries and prosperity of the two friendly peoples. The talks also dealt with a number of current international questions connected with easing tension and eliminating the centers of conflict and dispute in the world.

In this context, the two presidents discussed the developments in the Middle East situation. They asserted the need for continuing the efforts aimed at achieving a lasting and just peace in the area on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied since June 1967 and the achievement of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish an independent state, and the need for guaranteeing the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all states in the area.

In this respect, the two presidents agreed that it would be useful for all parties concerned to take part in the Cairo preparatory conference which was convened at the invitation of President as-Sadat.

It would also be useful to convene the meeting which UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim proposed in New York or in any other place in order to make new preparations for the resumption of the Geneva peace conference. Egypt has previously agreed to this proposal.

At the end of the talks, which were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, the two presidents expressed satisfaction at the constructive nature of the talks. They agreed on continuing consultations at the summit level and on continuing the consultations and contacts between the two countries regarding all matters of joint importance in order to further deepen and consolidate the relations between the two countries and two peoples, for the sake of peace, understanding and cooperation at the international level.

MENA REPORTS CARTER'S 'SUDDEN' PLAN FOR MIDEAST

LD102246Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2127 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, 10 February--U.S. President Jimmy Carter has suddenly revealed the details of a plan for the Middle East. This took place during a private dinner which the president gave on Wednesday for eight Jewish American leaders minutes after President Anwar as-Sadat's plane left from Andrews Air Force Base at the end of his visit to the United States.

It was learned that the most important thing that President Carter said in his statement during the dinner was his assertion that Egypt's request for the liquidation of Israeli settlements is a demand "not subject to negotiations" and indisputable. He also asserted the need for conducting a plebiscite on the West Bank after a transitional period of 5 years that would pave the way for self-determination for Palestinians on the West Bank.

Two Jewish leaders--David Blumberg, president of B'nai B'rith Society; and Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Congress of Jewish Organization Leaders, who attended the dinner--stated today that President Carter told them that the next 2 months will be a critical period for the Middle East problem.

Meanwhile an invitation has been sent to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan for a meeting with President Carter next Thursday. American officials are also considering extending an invitation to Prime Minister Menahem Begin to make a "working visit" to Washington prior to the visit scheduled for 30 April for the purpose of fund-raising for Israel.

KAMIL SATISFIED WITH CARTER STAND ON SETTLEMENTS

LD102325Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2252 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, 10 February--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said today that Egypt is satisfied with President Carter's attitude condemning Israel's policy of building and keeping settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

He affirmed that President as-Sadat's talks in Washington and London and those with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt have proved that the Egyptian policy and approach are correct and appreciated by these leaders.

In an exclusive statement to AL-AHRAM, to be published tomorrow, the foreign minister said President as-Sadat visited the United States at the invitation of President Carter, whom he informed of Egypt's resolve to continue its efforts to reach peace through negotiations, but that Egypt was compelled to withdraw its delegation because the talks were heading in the wrong direction.

Ibrahim Kamil also said that Egypt did not submit any peace plan or separate proposals for the Sinai front, but that As-Sadat had acquainted Carter with the points concerning arrangements for Israel's security, points which the president had explained to the People's Assembly.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said that the reason for breaking off the negotiations was due to the stand Israel used to try to confine the area of the negotiations. If things continued in this manner, the negotiations would have taken the wrong direction and would not have produced the required results. It was necessary to take such a step so that Israel could reconsider its position. The U.S. administration and people have understood this position and have become convinced that Egypt's desire to resume the negotiations is linked with the creation of new ways to achieve the desired results.

The foreign minister summed up the results of President as-Sadat's trip in the following points: 1) U.S. support and appreciation of the Egyptian position on the settlement of the problem; 2) in their declared positions, the United States, West Europe and the United Nations oppose the establishment and continued existence of settlements.

The minister said that Egypt welcomes the U.S. statement opposing the existence of Israeli settlements, within the framework of withdrawal from Arab territories. He said: We welcome an intensified U.S. effort and the resumption of talks if the United States is able, through its contacts, to find a sound basis for agreement on the principles of peace.

The foreign minister said that Alfred Atherton will fly to Israel, and if his mission succeeds, it would be possible to resume the negotiations.

He added that Germany and all of Europe have an important role to play and that the president's talks are a continuation of the consultations between him and world leaders, because the Middle East problem and the issue of peace are closely connected with European security.

The foreign minister added that President as-Sadat is happy with the results of his talks, because the leaders who met with him are aware of Egypt's good intentions and they support Egypt. This support does not come from governments only but from world public opinion, which welcomed the efforts of Egypt and President as-Sadat and encouraged President as-Sadat to continue his mission. The foreign minister added that President as-Sadat will brief leaders in most of the world capitals about the results of his mission, in line with his method following his visits and contacts.

EGYPT URGES CEASE-FIRE BETWEEN SOMALIA, ETHIOPIA

NC121406Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 February--The Arab Republic of Egypt has announced its readiness to make any effort or endeavor needed in the Horn of Africa situation to restore amity and concord between Somalia and Ethiopia, particularly since the situation requires an immediate cease-fire and the beginning of a dialog between the two countries, a dialog far removed from foreign intervention and influence.

This was stated by a responsible source in the Foreign Ministry who was commenting on the tense situation in the Horn of Africa and the dangers that could arise from it, dangers which could threaten the area and spread beyond the area as a result of foreign intervention in the conflict.

The source noted that Egypt has sent a memorandum to the OAU secretary general drawing his attention to the gravity of the situation in the area and urging him to reactivate African good offices. The source said that Egypt supports and backs the work of the African good offices committee and the good offices of Sudan, Nigeria and other African states to establish peace in this area of the African Continent, which is in dire need of peace and stability to achieve development and progress.

PRESS ON AS-SADAT TOUR, HORN OF AFRICA CONFLICT

LD1100567 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2335 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 February--In tomorrow's issues Cairo newspapers prominently report news of President Anwar as-Sadat's tour of the United States and several European countries as well as the important talks he is holding with officials of those countries on the current situation in the Middle East.

The papers also prominently report the current developments in the Horn of Africa, pointing out the Egyptian policy in this regard: Egypt has no forces in Somalia but is always ready to help it in defending its legitimate rights in international borders; Egypt is against foreign intervention in Africa in general; and Egypt is prepared to contribute to the efforts to reach a peaceful solution between the disputing parties while it supports the inalienable right of the disputed regions to self-determination.

The papers also report the situation in Lebanon and the current clashes between the Syrian and Lebanese armies and refers to the Syrian president's statement demanding the disbanding of the Lebanese Army.

Writing about dangers menacing Somalia because of the Ethipian invasion, which is backed by Soviet weapons, and of the arrival of Cuban forces, AL-AHRAM says that this danger not only threatens the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea and Somalia, but also all of Africa and, primarily, Arab national security.

The paper says that the Soviets are supporting Ethiopia with the most modern weapons in the Soviet arsenal. At the same time Ethiopia is being supported by Israeli weapons.

The paper adds: Thus there is (?a common resolve) to subject Africa to the sphere of communist influence and to secure Israel's presence in this vital and strategic area. The responsibility for thwarting the conspiracy now being hatched in the Horn of Africa is a collective Arab responsibility and the developments of the situation in the region do not leave room for hesitation. What is required now and before everything else is a collective Arab stand that will be translated into practical and immediate measures to face the new conspiracy.

The conspiracy, the paper concludes, is aimed at everyone and at the security of the region. Therefore, will the Arab action be commensurate with the gravity of the new conspiracy?

BRIEFS

EGYPTIAN-KOREAN BANK--Cairo, 11 February--A protocol was signed this morning on the formation of the first joint Korean-Egyptian bank with $10 million capital. The Egyptian side, which is represented by the Cairo Bank and the Ash-Sharq Insurance Company, has put up 51 percent of the capital. The Korean side is represented by the Korea Exchange Bank. [Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC]

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR DAMASCUS MEETING

JN110744Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 11 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 February--Na'im Haddad, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and member of the permanent general secretariat of the Arab popular conference, left for Damascus this morning at the head of a delegation to attend the secretariat's meeting scheduled to begin there today.

Haddad said that the participants will conclude the debate among the parties of the Arab progressive forces to promote the project of setting up a unified front.

The permanent secretariat has held meetings in Tripoli and Baghdad during which it discussed the developments in the Arab area following As-Sadat's treasonable visit to the occupied territories and his talks with the Zionist officials.

Haddad Returns

JN122124Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Comrade Na'im Haddad, Ba'th Party National Command member and member of the permanent secretariat of the Arab popular conference, returned to Baghdad this evening after taking part in the Damascus meetings of the permanent secretariat which ended today. Comrade Haddad said that the secretariat discussed the overall developments in the Arab region and the struggle of the Arab people in Egypt and Tunisia.

The delegation accompanying Comrade Haddad was made up of Comrades Majid Ahmad, Iraq's representative in the permanent secretariat; 'Abd al-Husayn Muslim, chief of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Office in the Ba'th Party National Command; and Muhammad Dabdab, president of the National Union of Iraqi Students.

TRADE, CULTURAL RELATIONS RESTORED WITH EGYPT

NC120927Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Baghdad, 12 February--The MENA correspondent in Baghdad has learned that toward the end of this month Egypt will start exporting to Iraq about 5,000 Nasr 128 cars. At the same time, it will also start importing about 270 Iraqi-made trucks and tractors. These trade exchanges are part of a $25 million trade agreement which was signed recently.

The volume of trade between Egypt and Iraq and the Egyptian investments in Iraq last year reached more than $100 million. The size of Egyptian investments is expected to increase this year.

Heads and members of the Egyptian cultural and trade offices are expected to arrive in Baghdad in the next few days, after it was agreed to open these offices and the consulates between the two countries. The heads and members of the Iraqi technical offices in Egypt arrived in Cairo at the beginning of January.

Some time earlier, an Iraqi official spokesman had welcomed the reopening of the technical offices between Egypt and Iraq. He had also confirmed that Iraq welcomes the restoration of full diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Counselor Amin Yusri, head of the mission looking after Egypt's interests in Iraq, arrived in Baghdad yesterday, accompanied by members of the Egyptian Consulate in Baghdad.

CUBAN DELEGATION SIGNS HEALTH ACCORD WITH IRAQ

JN111530Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 11 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 February--Iraq and Cuba signed a health cooperation agreement here today. The agreement stipulates that 378 Cuban doctors and nurses will be brought to work in Iraqi health institutes. The agreement was signed for Iraq by Dr Khaloun Lufti, director general for administrative affairs of the Ministry of Health, and for Cuba by Dr Jose Rotero Molina, first vice minister of the Ministry of Public Health.

Dr Riyad Ibrahim Husayn, minister of health, received the Cuban health delegation after the agreement was signed. Dr Husayn told the delegation that the agreement was a step on the road to cooperation between Iraq and Cuba and to Cuban participation in developing health services in Iraq.

Concludes Visit

JN111540Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 11 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 February--The Cuban health delegation, under Dr Jose Rotero Molina, first vice minister of the Ministry of Public Health, left Baghdad today at noon after a visit of several days to Iraq.

During the visit, the delegation held talks with officials of the Iraqi Ministry of Health on the means of developing health cooperation between the two friendly countries.

BELGIAN TRADE UNION DELEGATION MEETS WITH OFFICIALS

JN111727Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 11 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 February--A Belgian labor delegation held here today a number of contacts with Iraqi officials. The delegation led by Jozef Houthuys, president of the Belgian Labor Unions Confederation, met here this evening with 'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and minister of planning.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with the means of developing relations in the cooperative and planning domains.

The delegation met this morning with Dr Najih Muhammad Khalil, minister of industry and minerals, and discussed with him cooperation in the industrial and trade unionist fields.

Joint Statement Signed

JN120917Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 12 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 February--The General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions and the Federation of Christian Trade Unions in Belgium have affirmed that peace in the Arab region should be based on granting the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

This came in a joint statement signed here last night by Muhammad 'Ayish, RCC member and chairman of the General Federation of Trade Unions, and Jozef Houthuys, president of the Belgian Federation of Christian Trade Unions.

The two sides expressed their solidarity with all the workers of the world in their struggle for justice and human rights and against imperialist exploitation. Both sides agreed on the necessity of expanding relations in the interests and advancement of their two peoples and unionist movements. They also agreed to train Iraqi workers in various Belgian industries and to coordinate their stands in the ILO and other international quarters.

PAKISTANI AIR FORCE COMMANDER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN120903Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 12 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 February--Air Force Lt Gen Zulfiqar Ali Khan, commander of the Pakistani Air Force, arrived in Baghdad this morning on a 1-week visit to Iraq at the invitation of the air force and air defense command. He was received at the airport by the major general commander of the air force and air defense, several senior officers and the staff of the Pakistani Embassy in Baghdad.

Air Force Lt Gen Ali Khan expressed happiness at visiting Iraq. He said that the visit will enable him to become acquainted with the tourist and cultural sites in the Ar-Rafidayn Valley.

IRANIAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN130934Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0732 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 February--Iranian Army Chief of Staff Gen Gholam Reza Azhari arrived here today at the head of a delegation on a 9-day visit to Iraq.

General Azhari was met at the airport by the chief of staff of the armed forces and a number of senior army officers as well as the Iranian ambassador in Baghdad.

General Azhari said he was pleased to visit Iraq and to meet with Iraqi officials. He also praised the good relations between the two neighborly countries.

IRAQ CONDEMNS U.S. DEPORTATION OF VIETNAM'S UN DELEGATE

JN120852Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 12 Feb 78 JN

[Text] New York, 12 February--Iraq has condemned the decision of the United States to deport Vietnam's permanent representative to the United Nations from U.S. soil under the pretext that he constitutes a danger to U.S. national security.

Iraq's representative to the United Nations has said that the U.S. decision is inconsistent with agreements regulating relations between the UN member states and the host country. He added: While rejecting intervention in the domestic affairs of the member states, Iraq constantly calls for allowing the member delegations to fully exercise their roles regarding tasks undertaken by the United Nations.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES GULF INFORMATION MINISTERS

JN090748Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 February--RCC Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn received last night the Arab Gulf information ministers. During the meeting Husayn stressed the importance of information in strengthening the fraternal bonds and cooperation among the songs of the gulf area to serve the fateful issues of our Arab nation.

Saddam Husayn called on the information organs to give attention to our nation's noble history, heritage and values. The meeting was attended by the information ministers of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Iraq.

KING HUSAYN SENDS MESSAGE TO YASIR 'ARAFAT

NC121033Y Paris AFP in English 0930 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Amman Feb. 12 (AFP)--King Husayn of Jordan today sent a message about "recent developments" in the Middle East to Palestine Liberation organization leader Yasir 'Arafat, officials said here. The message was a response to a letter from Mr 'Arafat, the sources said.

It was the second exchange of letters between the king and the PLO leaders in less than three weeks, observers noted. The last official meeting between the two men was in Cairo in March last year.

KING HUSAYN CALLS AT GENERAL COMMAND

JN111224Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Feb 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Jordanian armed forces, called at the general command this morning. His majesty met with Staff Lt Gen Sharif Zayd ibn Shaki, commander in chief of the armed forces. The meeting was attended by the chief of staff, his assistants, and the king's military secretary and inspector general.

BADRAN SENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO SYRIAN COUNTERPART

JN101320Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran has sent the following cable of congratulations to His Excellency Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, Syrian prime minister, on the occasion of the renewal by the Syrian people of their confidence in President Hafiz al-Asad:

In my name and in the name of my colleagues, members of the cabinet, I present to Your Excellency and to your brother colleagues, members of the cabinet, the warmest congratulations and blessings on the occasion of the renewal by the Syrian people of their confidence in the national leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, wishing for fraternal Syria continued glory under this wise leadership.

SAUDI MILITARY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN121540Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1502 GMT 12 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 12 February--A Saudi military delegation made up of a number of students and instructors from King 'Abd al-'Aziz military college arrived in Amman today. The delegation is led by Staff Col 'Ali al-Qarni and will pay a 1-week visit to Jordan. The delegation will meet with a number of officials, visit a number of military installations and institutions and tour the country's cultural and tourist centers.

The Saudi delegation was received on arrival by a number of army officers from the general command and by the Saudi military attache in Amman.

PAPER QUESTIONS U.S. ABILITY TO MEDIATE

JN130958Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Feb 78 p 1 JN

[Editorial]

[Text] From the Israeli statement of protest, one notices that the general Israeli line has remained the same, whether the choices of war or peace are being discussed. The base from which the Zionist Jewish state proceeds is one of war and war alone, even if the circumstances and the atmpsphere are those of peace.

Israel discusses the settlement issue, the neutralization of Sinai, peace, natural relations and the exchange of diplomatic relations with Egypt using war criteria.

Israel discusses the issue of the Golan occupation from its military situation, even if the subject discussion is a Syrian Golan with no arms in it faced by a demilitarized western shore of Tiberias.

Israel discusses the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in terms of the number of planes and cannons in Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Israel discusses the peace offered by the Arabs and the world from a hypothesis of war and nothing else.

The statement by the Israeli Government has disclosed all this. It has also disclosed Washington's weak position, during the past months, on the issues of settlements and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. These are the sole barriers before the present peace moves. Washington is not a mediator in the Arab-Israeli conflict. It cannot be as long as it is the one providing Israel with war funding and the weapons for aggression and as long as it is the one who supports Israeli expansion, its ability to continue its presence on occupied Arab territory.

We fought in 1973 to clarify and implement Security Council Resolution 242. We effectively achieved a resolution, No 338, which includes the previous resolution and a guarantee by the two big superpowers to implement it in Geneva. Then for one reason or the other, known to Washington, the role of one of the big superpowers in the operation and implementation--the Soviet Union--was frozen, while Washington's role was preserved.

Do the moral and practical commitments which stem from 338 harmonize with the role of "mediator" behind which Washington hides its weak position?

Will the U.S. commitment take only the form of a statement by the secretary of state and a reply to it by the Israeli Council of Ministers, while the U.S. commitment to the funds for Israeli aggression and expansion remains as is, not subject to any change?

MEETINGS HELD IN AL-BIQA' TO MAINTAIN SECURITY

NC1113527 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] In Al-Biqa' Province Governor Henry Lahhud continues to hold meetings with deterrent forces command and Lebanese security forces officials in an attempt to prevent anything from happening that might disturb security and to consolidate the peace process in the country.

The radio reporter has sent us the following dispatch from Al-Biqa': [begin recording] After Al-Biqa' Governor Henry Lahhud had met with a delegation from the town of Zahlah, a meeting was held in Riyaq. It was attended by Col Riyad Habbush, commander of the Syrian forces in Al-Biqa', which are part of the Arab deterrent forces; Cpt Shibli al-Mashim, commander of the Zahlah gendermarie company; Lt Habib Lutfi, commander of Zahlah platoon; George Safuri, regional leader of the Phalangist Party in Zahlah and Lt Ahmad Shibib, liaison officer.

A spirit of understanding and fraternity prevailed during the meeting. The conferees were fascinated by the qualities of Colonel Habbush. The meeting resulted in complete understanding on all matters in order to prevent and forestall any incident. The understanding was not because of the recent incidents but because the conferees feel that it is their duty to safeguard the peace process. They agreed that what happened in the suburbs of Beirut should be left to the Lebanese authorities concerned and that the Syrian Army in Al-Biqa' has the specific duty of preserving security only, together with the legitimate authorities, and will not deviate from this duty at all.

I have learned that the Syrian commander has given orders to his forces to treat the citizens in accordance with the dictates of fraternal feelings toward Lebanon. [end recording]

AL-LIWA: PALESTINIANS LOWER PROFILE IN LEBANON

TA1012367 Paris AFP in English 1155 GMT 10 Feb 78 TA

[Excerpts] Beirut, Feb. 10 (AFP)--The Palestinian resistance has begun a concerted effort to lower its profile in southern Lebanon, the Lebanese daily AL-LIWA reported today. Quoting what it called a memo from the Palestinian leadership, the paper said guerrillas henceforth would be banned from carrying weapons except with special authorization. Also banned were the use of military vehicles inside cities and the wearing of combat fatigues except on missions, the paper said.

According to AL-LIWA, the memo also called for the number of Palestinian offices outside of refugee camps to be "cut to a maximum." [as received] Those kept open would be guarded "from the inside" by men in civilian dress. The memo said supplies would be gathered in non-military vehicles and that no pillaging would be tolerated.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

NC1116587 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The parliamentary foreign affairs, defense, administration and justice committees held a joint session at noon today under Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad. The discussions dealt with the developments, and recommendations were adopted. After the session, the director general of the Chamber of Deputies, Ihsan Abu Khalil, read a statement containing the following recommendations which were approved unanimously by the committees:

1. Emphasize that any incidents or actions of any size will not affect Lebanese-Syrian fraternity or the genuine Syrian role in Lebanon--a role which has put an end to the tragedy and bloodshed in our country.

2. Express strong regret over the bloody incidents that took place in the capital and suburbs and denounce the perpetrators, whoever they might be, and call for a speedy investigation to allocate blame and adopt decisive deterrent measures to prevent a repetition of violations by any side.

3. Declare complete support for the legitimate authority in the country and rally around the president, who is the symbol of the unity of the people, the country and the establishments in order to deprive the quarters and elements which gamble on fabricating clashes and jeopardizing security in order to take Lebanon back to its past state of division and loss.

4. The recent incidents have proved beyond doubt that it is necessary to expedite the achievement of national detente, which will unite all of Lebanon for the purpose of building the state and the institutions and shouldering the great responsibilities at this historic turning point.

5. Ask the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies to communicate these recommendations to the president of the republic and cooperate with him in adopting the necessary steps to insure Lebanon's interest, the safety of its people and strengthen the relationship with fraternal Syria.

CHAMBER SPEAKER MEETS SARKIS, MAKES STATEMENT

NC1013C1Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Feb 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis received Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad at noon today. Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus attended the meeting. After leaving the republican palace today, Speaker Kamil al-As'ad said: There are good omens for a solution. We hope there will be quick results. We hope for a solution to the problem in accordance with the principles which must be followed in such incidents. This is especially true since we consider Syria and Lebanon are today one single authority on the military level because the deterrent forces emanate from the legitimate Lebanese authority. There are no conditions and counterconditions. There is a discussion of the principles which must be followed in the investigation of the incident.

INTERIOR MINISTER MEETS SECURITY COMMANDERS

NC1012400Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman today continued his contacts and consultations with the security commanders. He met with Public Security Director General Faruq Abu al-Lami', Internal Security Forces Director General Staff Col Ahmad al-Haj and the commanders of units. The interior minister reviewed with them the present situation and the measures to consolidate stability. After the meetings Minister Salman said: The situation we are now experiencing is delicate and requires continuous work, an understanding of the situation and sacrifices by everybody to enable the officials to find suitable solutions to the current situation.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS MEETS SALAH KHALAF

NC1012422 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss met with Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah central council, for 1 hour at noon today. Khalaf said after the meeting that they had discussed some security matters. He said: We are very eager to maintain the peace process in Lebanon so that security may prevail. We will not be party to incidents.

FRONT MEETS, ISSUES STATEMENT ON INCIDENTS

NC1014002 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Feb 78 NC

[Text] In a statement issued after today's meeting at the home of former President Camille Sham'un in Al-Ashrafiyah, the Lebanese front called for self-restraint and vigilance to prevent saboteurs from exploiting the situation. The front expressed confidence in Presidents Ilyas Sarkis and Hafiz al-Asad and supported the measures they are taking to prevent the situation from escalating and to end the fighting. The front expressed regret over the recent incidents and called for the establishment of a joint Syrian-Lebanese investigating committee to determine where the responsibility lies and to adopt the necessary measures. The following is the text of the statement:

The Lebanese front held a meeting at 1100 on Friday, 10 February 1978. After former President Franjiyah briefed the conferees on the details and results of his visit with His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and on the results of his talks with His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis and some Syrian and Lebanese civilian and military officials and after examining all the contacts, talks and views, the front deemed it appropriate to announce:

1. It regrets the incidents that have taken place over the past few days in Beirut and its suburbs, especially because these incidents involved friendly forces which entered Lebanon with the approval of the legitimate Lebanese authorities. These authorities have recognized the good deed these friendly forces did by ending the infighting in the country.

2. It calls for the establishment of a joint investigating committee composed of Lebanese and Syrian officials to work in Lebanon to determine where the responsibilities lie and adopt the necessary measures.

3. The front appeals to all sides, friends and party members to exercise self-restraint and vigilance to prevent the saboteurs from taking advantage of the circumstances, ambiguous circumstances in which they are trying to harm Lebanon and drag the area into what might have harmful consequences.

4. The front expresses its confidence in Presidents Sarkis and Al-Asad and supports the measures they adopted to achieve an immediate cease-fire and prevent the situation from escalating.

PHALANGISTS, NATIONAL LIBERALS MEET IN BEIRUT

JN1013512 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1326 GMT 10 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 10 February--The front of the Phalangist Party and the National Liberal Party held an emergency meeting at noon today to discuss the situation in the aftermath of the continuous clashes--which continued for the fourth consecutive day today--between their forces and the Syrian regime's deterrent forces.

The front issued a statement after the meeting expressing regret for the bloody incidents which took place with the Syrian forces. The statement described the Syrian forces as "friendly forces." The statement calls for the formation of a joint Lebanese-Syrian committee to investigate these incidents and declares the front's full confidence in the Lebanese and Syrian presidents as well as its support of all their measures to keep the situation from worsening.

PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE, NATIONAL MOVEMENT MEET

JN101357Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 10 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 10 February--It was announced here today that a joint meeting was held last night between the leaderships of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese national movement. The meeting dealt with following up the accord between the national movement and the Palestinian resistance on the Palestinian situation in the south. It was also announced that a six-member committee has been formed to follow up the implementation of the accord throughout all the cities and villages in southern Lebanon. The committee is made up of three officials from the Palestinian resistance and a similar number from the Lebanese national movement. The joint meeting was presided over by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization Executive Committee.

RIGHTIST LEADER TERMS SYRIANS 'OCCUPATION FORCES'

JN091633Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 9 February--Camille Sham'un, chairman of the rightwing Lebanese front and leader of the Lebanese National Liberal Party, has said that the Syrian deterrent forces operating in Lebanon have violated all the agreements and pledges they made. He said in a statement this afternoon: These forces have become occupation forces. They are no longer peace-keeping forces as they are supposed to be.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR PARKER

JN101405Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1402 GMT 10 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 10 February--Fu'ad Butrus, Lebanese foreign minister, met here today with the U.S. ambassador in Beirut, Richard Parker. Radio Beirut has reported that the meeting dealt with a discussion of current developments in Lebanon and the Arab region.

SARKIS MEETS WITH RIGHTIST FRONT LEADERS

JN110829Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 11 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 11 February--Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis has summoned the leaders of the rightist front--Camille Sham'un, Pierre al-Jumayyil and Sulayman Franjiyah--to an urgent meeting to be held this morning. The meeting comes a few hours prior to the arrival of a Syrian delegation headed by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The meeting is aimed at containing the clashes between the Syrian forces and the militias of the Phalangist and National Liberal parties. At the end of the meeting, the leaders of the rightist front declined to comment on the subjects discussed.

At noon today Lt Col Sami al-Akhtaibn, commander of the deterrent forces, joined a meeting held following this. This meeting is still in progress and is attended by Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

BEIRUT RADIO REPORTS ON PRESIDENTIAL PALACE MEETING

NC112027Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1. Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] The leaders of the Lebanese front left the B'abda Presidential Palace at 2045 today. They had been received by the president at 1730 in the presence of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian Deputy Defense Minister Maj Gen Naji Jamil, and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

Former President Sham'un made a statement in which he said: This long meeting took place in the cordial and friendly atmosphere to which we have been accustomed at every meeting held between officials from sister Syria and Lebanese officials. What I have to say on this occasion is that we reminisced about the events which accompanied the presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon from the beginning--that is, since we agreed on what we called the Syrian initiative and the noble role which the Syrian Army played in putting an end to fighting. Sham'un added: Regarding the recent incidents, we discussed some measures which will insure justice for all sides. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, on leaving the presidential palace, said that understanding had been reached on certain practical steps. He expressed the hope that these steps would lead to positive results as quickly as possible.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad said, after attending part of the meeting, that the discussions dealt with general principles. The atmosphere was very positive. Asked whether an agreement will be announced tonight, Al-As'ad said: The solution will be applied and there is an agreement on it. Asked whether the Syrian delegation will remain in Lebanon, he said: The delegation is expected to stay.

SITUATION IMPROVES, MEETINGS RESUME AT PALACE

Sarkis, Butrus Meet Syrians

NC121018Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The security situation continued to improve today and the citizens in the quarters which were the scene of recent clashes have returned to normal living conditions. In the meantime meetings were resumed at the presidential palace between President Ilyas Sarkis and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus and the Syrian delegation led by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Meetings have also been held on the side between Lebanese offices and representatives of the Arab deterrent forces. The Syrian delegation is expected to leave Beirut for Damascus later today.

Sarkis, Khaddam Resume Meeting

JN120924Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 12 February--The talks between Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam resumed this morning to discuss the issue of the clashes that erupted a few days ago between the Syrian forces and the militia men of the National Liberal and Phalangist parties. These talks began in an intensive manner last night and continued until midnight. The two sides agreed to form a joint Syrian-Lebanese military tribunal to discuss the causes of these clashes.

Tribunal Begins Investigation

JN121418Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 12 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 12 February--It was announced here today that the joint Lebanese-Syrian tribunal formed yesterday to investigate the clashes which took place during the past few days between the militia of the Phalangists and the National Liberals on the one hand, and the Syrian deterrent forces on the other began its work today. Lt Col Sami al-Khatib, commander of the Syrian deterrent forces, said that several of the officers who participated in these clashes appeared before the tribunal.

The Lebanese Government also today began working on the draft law stipulating the establishment of an extraordinary military tribunal to try those responsible for the clashes.

Talks Conclude, Syrians Depart

NC121233Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The Lebanese-Syrian talks were concluded at the republican palace in B'abda at noon today. The official Syrian delegation, which is led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and includes Deputy Defense Minister Maj Gen Naji Jamil, left the republican palace at 1220 for Damascus. The talks were resumed this morning. Attending on the Lebanese side, which was led by President Ilyas Sarkis, were Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus and Arab deterrent forces commander Lt Col Sami al-Khatib. During today's talks a review and an assessment were made of the talks which took place at the republican palace yesterday. The talks resulted in an agreement to form a joint investigating tribunal and a joint military court to consider the causes of the recent incidents.

The cabinet will hold a special meeting tomorrow morning under President Sarkis. The prime minister and the ministers will be present. The bill, which the government is to submit to the Chamber of Deputies on the formation of the aforementioned court, will be discussed during the meeting.

AL-JUMAYYIL, SALAM MAKE STATEMENTS ON SYRIA'S ROLE

NC101915Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil has called for adherence to rationality and patience and for assistance in overcoming what has happened, pointing to the effective role Syria has played in consolidating security in Lebanon. He said: We must not forget for a single moment that the Arab deterrent forces are friendly forces which we sought to bring to Lebanon to restore security, halt the fighting and ward off the dangerous onslaught to which Lebanon was being exposed.

Ninety percent of the Lebanese people welcomed these forces and declared their support for the generous Syrian initiative.

Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam has stated that the overwhelming majority of the peaceful Lebanese people call on officials to strike with an iron fist whoever is proved responsible for engineering or exploiting the incidents. In a statement today on the current incidents, former Prime Minister Salam asserted that no one should forget or ignore that the Zionist enemy, who is lying in wait for Lebanon and Syria, will sieze any opportunity available.

ARAB DETERRENT FORCES ISSUE STATEMENT ON INVESTIGATION

NC121325Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Arab deterrent forces commander Lt Col Sami al-Khatib has announced that the investigation tribunal began its work today. He said that things are proceeding normally.

In a statement today, Lt Col Sami al-Khatib said that the special joint military court will assume its task after the law on its formation is issued. He said that investigations and trials will take place as in any country in the world. Lieutenant Colonel al-Khatib said that any move by the deterrent forces is for the sake of consolidating security in the country. He made this statement after the conclusion of the Lebanese-Syrian talks in the republican palace between President Sarkis and the Syrian delegation and the return of Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam and Syrian Deputy Defense Minister Naji Jamil to Damascus. The talks were attended by Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus and Lt Col Sami al-Khatib.

DEPUTIES TO DISCUSS BILL ON SPECIAL MILITARY COURT

NC112118Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kamil al-As'ad, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, has summoned the deputies to a session to be held at 1030 on Tuesday to study a bill on the formation of a special joint military court from the Arab deterrent forces and the Lebanese Army.

PREMIER AL-HUSS SATISFIED WITH CALM SITUATION

NC121820Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has expressed satisfaction with the return of calm to the country and the relaxation that has prevailed in the areas which were the scene of disturbances during the past 2 days, especially after everybody had expressed eagerness to stand united to ward off anything that is harmful to Lebanon and to its citizens' interests. Prime Minister al-Huss began his activities at his home in Ad-Dawhah today with a series of contacts with officials in charge of security affairs in which he inquired about the developments in the security situation in the various areas.

NATIONALIST EMERGENCY COMMITTEE MEETS WITH 'ARAFAT

JN111423Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1313 GMT 11 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 11 February--The emergency committee of the nationalist movement's central political council held a joint meeting today. The meeting was attended by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and a number of Palestinian leaders.

Nationalist movement sources have stated that the conferees reviewed the developments of the security situation following the recent fighting between the militias of the Liberal and Phalangist parties on one side and the Syrian deterrent forces on the other. The sources further stated that the conferees stressed the necessity of controlling the situation to avoid being swept into battle.

VOICE OF LEBANON SPECULATES ON NEW GOVERNMENT

NC130650Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 13 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] If all goes well--if the Chamber of Deputies meets tomorrow and approves the bill [on the formation of the joint military court] and the court starts its work--Lebanese officials will begin work to form a new government. There has been behind-the-scenes work on this task for a long time. According to informed sources, the new government will include over 18 ministers, representing not only the parliamentary blocs but also the political leaders who played a national role in preserving the country during the events.

BA'THISTS MEET WITH SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN BEIRUT

JN111730Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 11 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 11 February--Radi Farahat, the deputy secretary general of the regional command of the Lebanese Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met here today with Mr (?Seregin), the secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Beirut. The meeting, which took place at the party headquarters, was attended by Tahsin al-Atrash, member of the party regional command, and (Slavaka Velenkor), the attache at the embassy. They reviewed the latest developments and the party's position on them. They also reviewed the situation in the Arab arena and the method of confronting the capitulatory line led by As-Sadat.

INA REPORTS INTENSE SHELLING OF VILLAGES IN SOUTH

JN130932Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 13 February--The southern Lebanese town of An-Nabatiyah has been under heavy artillery fire from inside the occupied territory and the rightist position of Al-Qulay'ah in the border area since 0500 this morning. The INA correspondent says that hundreds of shells fell in the center of the town and that the shelling was still going on at 0800 local time. The correspondent says that the shelling was also aimed at the villages of Arnun, Kafr Man, Zabdin, eastern Zutar, Ad-Duwayr and other nearby villages.

The correspondent says that there were many civilian casualties and that ambulances have been moving scores of casualties to the hospitals in Sidon and Beirut since early this morning. The correspondent says that the Al-Khiyam-Marj 'Uyun front also flared up when heavy artillery and missiles were used in an attempt to advance toward the village of Al-Khiyam.

The shelling on An-Nabatiyah and vicinity stopped at 0850, but the exchange of fire continued on the Al-Khiyam-Marj 'Uyun front. According to initial reports, 18 persons were killed or wounded in An-Nabatiyah, several houses were damaged and several fires broke out.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD ADDRESSES NATION ON REELECTION

JN1101630Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Feb 78 JN

[Statement by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad broadcast over Damascus radio and television on the occasion of his reelection to another presidential term--live or recorded]

[Text] Brothers and sons: You have had your say, which was an expression of your free, solid will. You have expressed the wish that we all continue our march, which we began with all seriousness and sincerity--the march of the last 7 years with their sweet and bitter days, with their work and struggle, progress and obstacles, accomplishments and difficulties.

My heart is filled with boundless pride because of the cherished confidence you have granted me, coupled with these overwhelming sentiments of love which I had previously felt, and have felt during recent days in every city and village, in every university, institute and school, in every factory and farm. These sentiments were expressed strongly and in various ways by our beloved heroes and youth--the youth who are the source of our pride, happiness and hope for the future. I have felt these sentiments from our free men who never hesitated to make every costly sacrifice for the sake of this homeland. I have felt these sentiments from our struggling woman who, throughout our history, have struggled alongside men to build a free, dignified life for this beloved homeland. Our women have overcome difficulties and exercised an honorable role and great responsibility in building the homeland and its dignity.

These sentiments I have felt from our broad masses, from our workers who are building with their sweat, from our peasants who are building with their efforts and persistent work, from our students and intellectuals on whom the building of the future culture and civilization depends, from our soldiers who are always ready to give their effort and blood in defense of the honor and dignity of the homeland and from all our sectors working to build this homeland.

These sentiments and their significance in terms of a solid popular unity are the biggest assets and decisive and effective weapons in confronting our enemies and adversaries and in every battle we wage, including the battle of construction. It is the decisive element in deciding the future.

Brothers and sons, your confidence has been the strong basis for our continuous work to advance our homeland and to achieve the goals of our nation. This has been confirmed by the experience of the last 7 years. Through this confidence, we were able to build a strong structure and to achieve a great deal of what we wanted to achieve. We were also able to lay the foundations of the base of continuity on a solid basis for the achievement of domestic and pan-Arab goals.

I have been over whelmed with joyto see the sons of my homeland exercising their right and performing their duty with a strong feeling of responsibility, going to the polls to say their word in the referendum. The result announced yesterday certainly strengthens my conviction in the healthiness of the course which we have followed and the soundness of the stands I have taken as an expression of your will, aspirations and goals despite the fact that the road has been thorny and the stands have been delicate and serious.

This result was not unexpected, brothers and sons, because in every step I have made, I have used as my guide the genuine interests and basic beliefs of my people. I have always tried as much as I could to inspire the wishes and interests of the citizens in every action, big or small. Furthermore, I have always had strong confidence in the people and the sound vision of the masses. This confidence has never once been shaken or weakened.

My confidence in you has always been a source of strength, hope and optimism. This is the way it was and this is the way it will be in the future. This is the reason behind what has been achieved and behind what it is possible to achieve.

This overwhelming turnout for the referendum and this great popular unanimity which was embodies in the results of the referendum reaffirm the high standard of awareness and sense of responsibility of the citizens. This clearly shows the inherent capabilities for success in facing future tasks. I must say now that just as I am happy because of your dear trust, I also feel the tremendous responsibility which comes with it and just as I am pleased with this mass upsurge, I also sense the greatness of this responsibility.

My belief in God and confidence in the people are the source of my strength and success in carrying out the responsibility entrusted to me and placed on my shoulder toward my homeland and people.

Brother citizens, the experience of the past stage has been rich in the full sense of the term. Seven years in history is not a great period, but the past 7 years, judging by the results and efforts and by our achievements, has been a great period. We began this period with frankness and confidence, with full awareness of the tasks facing us and of what we should do. We were determined to reach our aims with our belief in God and our trust in ourselves and our nation. Due to our collective efforts many things in our country improved and the picture of the country noticeably changed. Optimism replaced desperation and stability and security replaced instability and chaos. We have transformed weakness into strength in all aspects of our life and established a firm basis for the continuation of our progress toward our objectives.

Our aims have been great and we always attempted to raise our efforts to the level of our aims. If we have not reached a certain goal it was not because of an inherent weakness, but because of certain new situations which demanded some revision of our priorities, or because of certain factors forced upon us.

Some of our failures have been the result of indifference found here and there, which I pointed out at the time. In all these cases we knew what we wanted and we embarked upon a clear line which we drew for ourselves and which we sometimes modified when our national and pan-Arab interests demanded such modification. We have always preserved our free will with all our strength. This free will has been our springboard and the basis of our attitudes. It has not changed and has not yielded to pressures, no matter what the source of these pressures. The beginning of the last stage was hampered by problems from within and from without. We tackled these problems from a new angle which was missing in the past, namely, the adhesion between the government and the people and between the leadership and the citizens. We adhered to this principle and we worked and will always work to deepen this principle. Brothers and sons in Syria, I tell you with my frankness, which you all are accustomed to, and with all my love for you that I have always thought about the country and the citizens. I have never forgotten the aims of our nation and how we might realize them and the needs of the citizens and how we might satisfy them. I have never spared any efforts or hesitated to embark upon any work which I knew to be beneficial to the people and the Arab nation.

I also say that first and foremost I am one of the people. I suffer your suffering and feel your feelings and work with you and through you in order to achieve tha aims for which we struggle and in which we believe. The success of my leadership is your success and is achieved through you. The difficulties faced by the leadership cannot be overcome except through your national awareness, your national steadfastness and your strong national unity, which will always remain for us a sacred, paramount aim.

Brother citizens, this is a word of love and thanks from my loving heart for all the sons of our people, young and old, men and women. I thank all of you and call upon you to renew your determination to preserve the sense of responsibility and the serious efforts and make them your guide and aim. Preserve the dignity of the nation and preserve the Syrian role as the vanguard of honor and dignity and the beacon of the Arab nation.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES CONGRATULATIONS FROM BREZHNEV, OTHERS

JN112103Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpt] The president received a cable of congratulations from President Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the Presidium, USSR Supreme Soviet. The following is the text of the cable:

The general secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus:

On the occasion of your reelection to the post of president of the Syrian Arab Republic, I send to you, Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, my heartfelt congratulations and my sincere wishes for good health and success in your work for the good of the Syrian people. I express my confidence that the solid and friendly relations and the comprehensive cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic will continue to develop in the service of the interests of our two countries and two peoples.

I would like to stress to you that the Syrian people can rely strongly on the firm support of the Soviet Union in their struggle to establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Message From Honecker

JN111309Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Feb 78 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received the following cable of congratulations on the occasion of his reelection as president of the republic from Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unith Party of Germany [SED] in the GDR:

In my own name and on behalf of the GDR Council of State and people, it gives me extreme pleasure to send you warmest congratulations on the occasion of your reelection as president of the Syrian Arab Republic. Your reelection to your noble post is a happy opportunity for me to express my conviction that the amicable relations existing between our two countries will deepen in the interests of the common struggle against imperialism.

I wish you further successes, good health and happiness in your noble mission.

[Signed] Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee.

Cable From Boumediene

JN102045Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a congratulatory cable from President Houari Boumediene. The following is text of the cable:

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic: It pleases me on the occasion of your being reelected president of the Syrian Arab Republic to send you on behalf of the Algerian people and in my name our warmest congratulations and best wishes.

I take this happy opportunity to praise the existing fraternal bonds and strong ties between our two fraternal countries, which continue to strengthen and grow in the various fields in the interest of our two countries and our Arab nation.

The current phase through which the Arab nation is passing in its just struggle against Zionism and imperialism calls for continuous work and effective solidarity from us all. We are confident that our nation's determination and firm resolve to continue its battle will undoubtedly lead to its liberation, the restoration of its rights and the preservation of its dignity.

While wishing you continued good health and happiness, I wish your fraternal people more progress and prosperity. May God give us all success in the interest of the welfare, dignity and might of our Arab nation.

[Signed] Your brother Houari Boumediene.

Cable From Shah

JN111343Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Feb 78 JN

[Text] His excellency the president has received the following cable of congratulations from Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, shah of Iran:

On the occasion of your reelection as president of the Syrian Arab Republic, it gives me extreme pleasure to send you my warmest congratulations and heartfelt wishes for continued success in the service of the fraternal Syrian people.

I am convinced that the relations of friendship and fruitful cooperation between Iran and Syria will become stronger in the interests of our two peoples.

[Signed] Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

KHADDAM, DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER RETURN FROM BEIRUT

JN121953Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Feb 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Comrade Maj Gen Naji Jamil, Ba'th Party National Command member and deputy defense minister, returned today from Beirut after a visit during which they held talks with Lebanese President Sarkis and senior officials on the new problems in Lebanon and on ways to solve them.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

JN120556Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 12 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly held the final meeting of its second extraordinary session yesterday evening under the chairmanship of Speaker Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi. A number of ministers attended.

During the session, the results of the plebiscite on the post of the president of the republic were announced. The interior minister's statement on the implementation of the decision of the People's Assembly speaker number 26 dated 22 January 1978 for setting the date of the plebiscite and determining the results of the plebiscite and the speaker's statement announcing the results to the citizens were read out.

A number of assembly members delivered speeches emphasizing that the renewal of the pledge of allegiance to President Hafiz al-Asad is a guarantee to beef up national cohesion and to achieve an Arab solidarity aimed at mobilizing the resources of the Arab nation, preserving the rights of the Palestinian people, rejecting the capitulatory solutions and continuing the construction of the modern state. The speeches also pointed out that the Syrian masses have expressed, through the plebiscite, their determination to continue the battle of steadfastness and confrontation.

ROMANIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN122141Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 12 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Emil Draganescu, deputy prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania, arrived in Damascus this evening at the head of a delegation on an 8-day official visit to Syria. Present at the airport to receive the Romanian guest was Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs.

Official talks between the Syrian and the Romanian sides will begin tomorrow.

ELF DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS ON VISIT

JN101958Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1941 GMT 10 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--An Eritrean delegation headed by Ahmed Nasser, chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front, arrived in Damascus today on a visit to Syria in the course of its tour of a number of Arab countries. During this visit, Nasser will hold talks with officials in the party and the government concerning developments in the situation in Eritrea.

ALGERIA

MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD121434Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Lt Col Charles Samba Sissoko, Malian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, member of the National Liberation Military Committee and special envoy of Malian President Moussa Traore, arrived in Algiers today. He was welcomed at the airport by Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

In a statement to the press the Malian foreign minister said that his visit to Algeria falls within the framework of contacts the Malian president has aksed him to conduct dealing with the situation in the area and bilateral relations between Mali and Algeria.

He also said he .s carrying a message from the Malian President to President Houari Boumediene.

Minister Ends Visit

LD122145Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] The Malian foreign minister and special envoy of President Traore left Algiers today. Mr Samba Sissoko was received earlier today by President Houari Boumediene to whom he delivered a message from President Traore. Foreign Minister Bouteflika and the Malian ambassador were present.

ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER, SAHARAN PREMIER LEAVE FOR LIBYA

LD111232Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] Foreign Minister of Angola Paulo Texeira Jorge this morning left Algiers for the Jamahiriyah to attend the 30th session of the OAU Liberation Committee in Tripoli. Premier of the Democratic Arab Saharan Republic Mohamed Lamine Ould Ahmed also left Algiers for the same purpose.

LIBYA

MAJOR JALLUD REPORTEDLY TO VISIT MOSCOW 14 FEB

JN131013Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Moscow, 13 February--'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, will begin a 3-day visit to the USSR tomorrow. Jallud's discussions with Soviet officials will center on bilateral relations between the two countries and the situation in the Arab region. The Libyan official's first visit to Moscow was in 1971.

MAJOR JALLUD ADDRESSES ARAB YOUTH MEETING

LD101610Y Tripoli JANA in English 1400 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 10, JANA--A symposium of students from all the Arab countries yesterday expressed firm and determined support for the Arab cause, based on the principles of no negotiations, no peace and no recognition.

In a final statement issued here the students reaffirmed their support for the front of steadfastness and confrontation.

The symposium was opened by the secretary of education, Dr Muhammad Ahmad ash-Sharif and addressed by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud.

The statement incorporated the speech of S/Major Jallud in which he stressed that the revolution is the responsibility of the Arab youth as they are the driving force in any society.

He told the students that youth were the bridge upon which the Arab nation will be guided to cross to reach its goals of progress, freedom and social equality.

S/Major Jallud said: The fact that we raise slogans rejecting recognition of the Zionist entity imposes upon us the duty of translating these slogans into deeds. Publication of statements is not sufficient in itself to liberate Palestine.

The students declared that they upheld the principles outlined by S/Major Jallud and on their part stressed that the Arab youth's determined efforts to liberate Palestine meant that the Zionist entity as an advanced outpost of imperialism in the area had to cease pointing its aggressive armaments at the displaced Palestinian people. They emphasised that peace will only come with the creation of an independent state on the whole of Palestine and when the Palestinian people will return to their homeland.

The students affirmed that the fight against the Zionist enetity was not directed against Jews but against colonial settlers who had usurped the Palestinian peoples homes. This is further demonstrated, the statement said, by the existence of anti-Zionist Jews who support the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The statement pointed out to the reactionary role that certain Arab regimes play in deluding Arab youth and leading them astray from the path of liberation, as stressed by S/Major Jallud in his speech.

"Arab youth have to be ready to shoulder the historic mission of leading the Arab nation toward its goals. They should not shirk their responsibilities and the dangers that confront them from reactionary Arab regimes.

Finally, in their statement the Arab students stressed that the revolution could not be separated from its spiritual contents and this meant building up of a socialist society.

The statement declared that the Arabs were not in a position of weakness and that their principles and politics were not seasonal but stemmed from a concrete analysis of the objective conditions prevailing in the Arab nation.

FOREIGN SECRETARY VIEWS AFRICAN LIBERATION STRUGGLE

LD111904Y Tripoli JANA in English 1756 GMT 11 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 11 JANA--The Jamahiriyah foreign secretary, Dr 'Ali at-Turayki said here today all necessary measures had been taken by the Jamahiriyah for the success of the coordination committee meetings of African foreign ministers for liberation of Africa.

In an interview with JANA the foreign secretary said the committee was one of the most important within the Organisation of African Unity.

Twenty one foreign ministers of African countries are expected to attend the committee meetings beginning here on Monday next.

Dr at-Turayki said the fact that the meetings are being held in the Jamahiriyah for the second time is a clear demonstration and appreciation of the leading role played by the Jamahiriyah in support of liberation movements in the African Continent.

He said the main reason why the Jamahiriyah backed the liberation movements, as stated by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, is that "our freedom will not be complete unless and until the whole of the African Continent will rid itself of colonialism and foreign occupation."

The foreign secretary stressed that the unlimited support the Jamahiriyah is giving to the confrontation states surrounding the racist regime of South Africa is demonstrated in the cable sent by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to the heads of state of these countries.

He said: "Liberation is not the duty of one country alone but is the shared responsibility of all the African states. It is their duty to expose the racist regimes in Africa and the role of colonialism in the continent."

He expressed the hope that the committee for liberation of Africa will come out with resolutions and recommendations which will serve the liberation movements.

"We in the Jamahiriyah have high hopes and great expectations from this committee which by the nature of its constitution, including 21 member states, should come out with concrete proposals and effective measures to aid liberation of Africa."

MOROCCO

MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH CONTINUES VISIT

Talks With Hassan

LD101538Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] This morning King Hassan received Mokhtar Ould Daddah, president of the Mauritanian Islamic Republic, who arrived yesterday in Morocco on a private visit. Their meeting lasted 75 minutes. Afterwards they presided over a working session.

Ould Daddah on Sahara Issue

LD102128Y Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] Rabat, 10 February MAP--On Friday the Moroccan paper L'OPINION, the Istiqlal Party paper, publishes an exclusive interview with Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah, in which he speaks about the situation in northwest Africa, the north-south dialog, and Arab solidarity. Here are portions from this interview:

-Question: What, according to you, is the nature of the links that exist between the Algerian Government and the POLISARIO?

-Answer: We have proof that we are the victims of aggression by Algeria. But instead of attacking us with soldiers in uniform, Algeria does so through the intermediary of mercenaries and of military personnel in irregular uniforms.

Frankly, I do not understand the viewpoint of certain Western newspapers which refuse to admit this reality. If Algeria stops its aggression against our country and recognizes our national reunification, we will be ready to forget the past and normalize our relations with Algeria and with the Algerian people which, is a sister people in every sense of the term. As for the POLISARIO mercenaries, they are nothing without Algeria and will be nothing the day Algeria stops organizing and arming them.

Question: Is the solidarity of the Arab world a fact?

Answer: Along with President Senghor and Moussa Traore I visited two Arab countries; Qatar and Kuwait, to ask them to give us capital to enable us to complete the projects we have underway on the Senegal River within the framework of the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River. If these projects are carried out, we will be much less at the mercy of climactic changes. In the name of fraternity, solidarity and Afro-Arab complementary relations these two countries promised us important and effective aid.

Other countries which will be visited with the same aim will, I am sure, give us identical aid. Among others, we will visit Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Joint Communique Issued

LD102214Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Text] A Moroccan-Mauritanian joint communique has been issued following the Mauritanian president's visit to Morocco. The text follows:

On the occasion of His Excellency President Moktar Ould Daddah's private visit to Morocco and in the framework of the periodic consultation between Morocco and Mauritania, His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency Moktar Ould Daddah held a working session today, 10 February 1978, at the royal offices.

The two heads of state reviewed several issues, particularly the state of cooperation between the two countries. They also reviewed ways of making Moroccan-Mauritanian cooperation more effective and more advantageous in all fields.

In addition, the two heads of state found that their views are completely identical, both in regard to local problems and the international issues discussed. The private talks lasted well over an hour. Later the meeting enlarged to include Prime Minister Ahmed Osman, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation M'hamed Boucetta, his majesty's adviser Ahmed Reda Ouedira, Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Mustapha Faris, Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdelkamel Raghaye, and Tayyib Ben Sheikh, the secretary of state in the prime minister's office for planning and regional development. On the Mauritanian side the meeting was attended by the speaker of the National Assembly, (Abdelaziz Sal). Foreign Minister Hamdi Ould Mouknass, Minister of Regional Development Cheikh Sidi Ould Abdallahi and the secretary general of the Presidency (Mohamed Ali Charif).

Ould Daddah Deports

LD101754Y Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] Rabat, 10 February--Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah left Rabat this afternoon at the end of his private visit to Morocco.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SOVIET FISHING MINISTER'S VISIT

LD0815l2Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Ahmed Osman this morning received in his office Mr Aleksandr Ishkov, Soviet minister of the fish industry, who arrived yesterday in Morocco for an official visit.

After the meeting the Sovivet minister told the press that his visit to Morocco is a result of an official invitation from the government of his majesty the king, with a view to holding talks with Moroccan officials on issues of common interest, including cooperation in the field of sea fishing, Mr Ishkov noted the importance attached by his country to these talks, which will be crowned by the conclusion of a cooperation agreement in the field of fishing between the two countries.

Regarding Moroccan fishing equipment the Soviet minister stressed that it is traditional and that modern methods need to be introduced, especially since the ocean is vast and rich in biological resources. For this reason, the Soviet minister said, it will be necessary to build a maritime fleet to introduce modern technical methods and to create scientific fishing institutes. In this sphere Moroccan-Soviet cooperation comes in.

Ishkov Gives Interview

LD102129Y Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 10 Feb 76 LD

[Text] Rabat--In an interview with the Moroccan daily AL-MAGHRIBI Soviet Fisheries Minister Aleksandr Ishkov, who is currently visiting Morocco, affirmed that "the Soviet Union, considering its good relations with Morocco, can establish cooperation in the interest of both countries."

"Thus, it is ready to exchange its experience and to help in the development of the fishing industry in Morocco. The most urgent matter in such cooperation is to carry out scientific research to evaluate the fish resources of Moroccan waters."

"My proposals involve two scientific research vessels on which Soviet and Moroccan scientists will be able to evaluate the resources together, see what the Moroccan resources are, and then draw up a 5-year or other development plan for the fishing industry."

Speaking about the agreement that will be signed between the two parties in this field, Mr Aleksandr Ishkov said that training of cadres and the development of an industrial complex for fishing are planned. In this context he pointed out: "We are frank and we say that we are interested in the fish production not used by Moroccan consumers. Thus we will help them to catch the fish, to process and preserve this fish in Morocco itself and we will also buy the surplus. This will be of advantage to Morocco as its processing plants will be used to 100 percent of capacity and it will create new stable jobs. We have our fleet, our experience and we will help Morocco to use and rationally exploit its potential. This is the heart and basis of our cooperation. For our part we will buy Moroccan fish at an advantageous price. We will use our fleet, which is very large."

Regarding the possibility of joint ventures, the minister indicated that the establishment of such companies takes time and that for the moment the important thing is to get to know each other so as to break down mistrust and psychological barriers.

"One of the concerns of his majesty, King Hassan II, remains to implement this agreement in practice," the Soviet minister concluded. With this in mind we plan to prepare everything and bring together all the proposals that will be presented to the various departments concerned in Morocco to prepare the grand interstate agreement that will be signed jointly in Rabat and Moscow."

SUDAN

NUMAYRI SENDS MESSAGES TO CHADIAN, GABONESE LEADERS

NC111[illegible]0Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 11 February--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has sent a very important message to the president of Chad, Felix Malloum, connected with the dispute between Chad and Libya.

The newspaper AS-SAHAFAH reports today that in his message the Sudanese president asks the Chad president to exercise self-restraint and to give him an opportunity to conduct the necessary contacts with the competent sides--contacts that might lead to a solution acceptable to all.

The Sudanese paper says that President Numayri has also sent a message to Omar Bongo, the president of Gabon and the current OAU chairman, informing him of what he has done and of his future moves to solve the Chad-Libyan dispute on the basis of the desire that African disputes be solved by the Africans themselves.

IBRAHIM TO GO TO ETHIOPIA TO SEEK CEASE-FIRE

LD121058Y Hamburg DPA in German 1006 GMT 12 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Khartoum--Sudan intends to become a mediator in the Ethiopian-Somali conflict in the Horn of Africa. For this purpose President Ja'far Numayri has decided to send his first vice president, 'Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, to Addis Ababa to seek the early convening of an international cease-fire conference.

Numayri said during the night in a DPA interview in Khartoum that the conference is to first of all bring about a cease-fire on all fronts in Ethiopia. Apart from the governments concerned, representatives of the population of Ogaden and of the Eritrean liberation movements have to take part in the conference. The president suggested Khartoum as a venue for discussions.

In the interview Numayri stressed that the collapse of the Somali units fighting in the Ethiopian province of Ogaden would have "catastrophic effects" on the government in Mogadiscio and the position of President Siad Barre. Even if the Ethiopian troops stop at the frontier with the neighboring state, the USSR would do everything to remove the government of Siad Barre out of revenge for the expulsion of a few thousand military experts last year. "Russian interference" in the Horn of Africa was, however, aimed primarily, at the oil routes through the Red Sea and at neighboring African states which are to be ideologically infiltrated from a strongly Marxist Ethiopia.

CABINET PROTESTS VANCE STATEMENT ON SETTLEMENTS

NC1213102Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Now over to the prime minister's office, where the cabinet has just finished its weekly meeting. Reporter Allen Ben-'Ami brings us this statement from Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

[Begin--recorded] The Government of Israel expresses its regret and protest over the statement made by the secretary of state, Vance, at the press conference of February the 10th, 1978. The secretary of state declared, inter alia, with respect to the Sinai settlements: We have said that we believe that all of the settlements are contrary to international law and that therefore they should not exist.

The cabinet registers the fact that the latter part of this statement by the secretary of state is in complete contradiction with the remarks made by the President of the United States to the prime minister on December the 16th and 17th, 1977, following the prime minister's presentation to the President of the Israeli peace plan.

In presenting this plan to the President, the prime minister included the specific reference to the continuous existence of the settlements within a United Nations zone and an Israeli defense contingent for their protection. During the course of the exchange in the White House, not only was not reservation whatsoever made with regard to this reference but the plan as a whole was received with a positive reaction.

The Government of Israel stands by its view that the Israeli settlement problem is in full harmony with the international law and that it always has been legal, legitimate and essential. The United States holds a different viewpoint. However, no communication was transmitted to us, even during the 7 weeks after having forwarded on December 27, 1977, the full text of the peace plan in writing to the Government of the United States, that the settlements should not exist.

Immediately after having made this part of his statement, the secretary added that "this, however, is a problem that has to be resolved by the parties. They are going to have to negotiate it themselves." We have here an obvious contradiction in terms between taking sides by a mediator and his advice to conduct negotiations.

With regard to the areas of Eretz Yisra'el' Judea and Samaria, the secretary of state announced that there should be a homeland for the Palestinians and that it should be linked to Jordan. Whatever the theoretical assumptions and interpretations, there is absolutely no doubt that this plan would lead in reality and unavoidedly to the establishment of a Palestinian state ruled by the terrorist organizations as the front-line spearhead of a potential military alinement of Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Already today this alinement has at its disposal nearly 6,000 tanks, over 1,100 fighter aircraft and more than 4,200 heavy guns. Israel, under such conditions, would find itself 9 miles from the sea and the situation would thus be created of mortal danger to its very existence. No political goal, whatever it be, can move Israel to place almost all of its civilian population within the range of an enemy's fire and endanger the very existence of the Jewish state.

We wish to point out that it was only after the Israeli peace plan in all its parts obtained the moral support of the United States the government decided to send its delegation composed of the prime minister, the foreign minister and the defense minister to Ismailia in order to bring the plan to the knowledge of the Government of Egypt.

The cabinet expresses its hope that the Government of the United States will reconsider its position in light of the positive talks held between the President and the prime minister in December 1977 in connection with the Israeli plan. [end recording]

BEGIN: U.S. WANTS ROGERS PLAN PLUS PALESTINIAN STATE

TA130953Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 13 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin yesterday told his confidantes that the significance of the new U.S. position, as expressed in the remarks by Cyrus Vance, is its intention of implementing the Rogers plan with the grave addition of the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Begin stressed that no cabinet in Israel, certainly not this one, would agree to the new U.S. position.

He added that less that 2 months after the administration in Washington had expressed support for the Israeli peace program, the United States is now trying to get out of its moral commitment to this program.

He stressed that without U.S. backing for the peace program, he would never have presented it to the Egyptian president.

The prime minister confirmed to his confidantes that the Vance statement was only one of the expressions of a change in the U.S. policy and that further signs had reached his ears, including persuasive activities being taken by the administration among the leaders of Congress. Begin said that in the context of the atmosphere of the pressure the United States is trying to create around Israel, people from the administration are making complaints intended to undermine the credibility of the prime minister. Among other things, claims are being put forward that the peace program which the prime minister submitted to As-Sadat was different from the draft he gave President Carter. The prime minister spoke very bitterly about the attempt to discredit him and denied the U.S. claims on this matter completely.

PRESS REPORTS ON BEGIN MEETING WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR

MA'ARIV Report

TA121536Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Ido Dissentshik, MA'ARIV correspondent in Washington, and Yosef Harif]

[Excerpt] The government today will make a decision to reject the line adopted by the U.S. administration to the effect that the settlements constitute an obstacle to peace. At this stage, there is even a tendency in the government to issue a political announcement in reaction to remarks on the issue by U.S. administration officials, especially by U.S. Secretary of State Vance.

Criticism about the U.S. position, which in Israel's opinion, constitutes a deviation from the commitment to play the role of a neutral mediator in the Middle East conflict, was leveled yesterday by Prime Minister Begin in a talk with U.S. Ambassador Lewis, who came to report to the prime minister about the talks held between President Carter and Anwar as-Sadat.

The content of these talks had already been learned of in Jerusalem before the arrival of Ambassador Lewis through the talk Assistant Secretary of State Atherton had with Foreign Minister Dayan in New York.

In his talk with Ambassador Lewis the prime minister came out against these tendencies of the United States. He made it clear that Israel will not deviate from its peace plan, a plan which is fair, in Israel's opinion, and was viewed as such also by the United States, which praised it. The United States clearly said that this plan could serve as a basis for the negotiations and, therefore, it should have let the parties conduct the negotiations on the basis of this plan. The United States should not have taken a position against this or that party. Mr Begin mentioned the fact that the negotiations that had begun were stopped at their height by President as-Sadat, a move that took even the U.S. secretary of state by surprise. Why should the United States publicize its remarks that harm the process of negotiations in which progress has been made, as stated by Mr Vance himself?

Israel believes that the United States thereby makes the negotiations difficult because the previous lack of progress was already the result of Egyptian intransigency, and now, after the remarks of the U.S. President and secretary of state, Egypt's president will make his position even more intransigent. The prime minister clarified to the ambassador that Israel will by no means give up its right to establish settlements. It said so to President as-Sadat and President Carter at every opportunity in the past, and the prime minister is now also repeating it.

These remarks were mainly directed at the firm remarks of the U.S. secretary of state against any Jewish settlement, defining this as an obstacle to peace.

Talks 'Tough and Sharp'

TA1309S4Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Dani'el Bloch]

[Text] Western diplomatic sources last night confirmed that Saturday night's meeting between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis was tough and sharp.

Begin told Ambassador Lewis that the current cabinet, unlike the previous Rabin cabinet, will not submit to U.S. pressure and give up its basic positions. It appears that Begin was badly hurt by the latest publicity in the United States to the effect that there is a gap between the peace program he presented to President Carter and the program he presented to President as-Sadat. Begin was also angry at the publicity that Israel had promised the United States that it would not establish new settlements during the negotiating period. Begin claimed that this publicity was aimed at presenting him as lacking credibility.

Thus, the prime minister complained that the United States hurried to surrender to President as-Sadat's demands and, thus, took a one-sided position in the dispute, a position which would make progress in the negotiations more difficult. The prime minister also takes a very grave view of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's announcement, which represents a worsening even in comparison with the Rogers plan.

Observers in Jerusalem pointed out that the Begin-Lewis talk was the toughest and sharpest between Israel and the United States not just during the period of the present cabinet, but even during that of the previous one. The text of the cabinet announcement yesterday contained the sharpest language from the diplomatic viewpoint, language reserved only for the gravest cases in relations between friendly countries.

Lewis Calls Talks 'Vigorous'

TA130820Y Jerusalem POST in English 13 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Haifa--U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis yesterday likened the "very close relationship" between his country and Israel to "family ties--with occasional misunderstandings."

Speaking after a luncheon at the Usfiya Home of Zeidan Atshe, the Druze MK and former consul in New York, Lewis said: "To the extent that you can make peace without our help, no one will be happier than we. But if you need help for your future defense and security, you'll have it."

Asked to comment on reports that his talks with the prime minister and members of his cabinet on Saturday had been "tough," Lewis maintained: "Our talks were long, vigorous and good--but not tough."

"I have vigorous discussions with your leaders on occasions, and we may argue about the tactics of achieving peace, but not about the principles."

Atshe had invited the ambassador, his wife, and members of the U.S. Embassy to meet some young Druze and Arab intellectuals, Moslem and Christian, for first-hand talks on how the minorities live in Israel.

Atshe said he wanted the ambassador to know that the non-Jewish population was also "vitally committed" to the survival and well-being of Israel and asked him to convey to President Carter and the U.S. administration the fact of coexistence in Israel of Jews and non-Jews.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCE COMMENTS ON BEGIN-CARTER TALKS

TA121851Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Feb 78 TA

[Text] A diplomatic source in Tel Aviv, talking to our correspondent Dan Eshel, has reacted to the government announcement that the White House had reacted positively to the peace plan submitted to President Carter by Prime Minister Menahem Begin in December. The source said that it would be more accurate to say that the plan was not received negatively. The diplomatic source in Tel Aviv also said that the plan submitted by the prime minister to President Carter was not identical to the plan that he submitted to the president of Egypt. However, it is true, the source said, that the prime minister told President Carter at the time that there might be changes in the plan and that these changes were legitimate.

SOURCES SCORE NEW U.S. MIDDLE EAST STANCE

TA121415Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 12 Feb 78 pp 1,2 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Excerpt] The open U.S. support of President as-Sadat's demands, as expressed in yesterday's press conference given by Cyrus Vance, was received with much dissatisfaction by the prime minister and his advisers and was discussed in the talk held between Menahem Begin and U.S. Ambassador Lewis yesterday.

Authoritative sources yesterday dwelled on the grave elements contained in the U.S. approach:

--The United States has abandoned the role of neutral mediator and publicly expressed a position in favor of the basic demands of the Egyptian president on the Palestinian issue and on the issue of a return to the 1967 borders.

--Washington's new position contradicts its reaction to Israel's peace plan as presented by the prime minister to President Carter in December 1977. President Carter praised the plan in terms that were only partly publicized. Additional compliments given the plan by the President are being kept in Jerusalem. These compliments are incompatible with Washington's new position.

--The U.S. approach in fact disrupts the negotiations between Israel and Egypt since it encourages President as-Sadat not to discuss with Israel the disputed issues and not to reach mutual concessions.

Informed sources yesterday emphasized that Cyrus Vance's statement is even graver than the well-known Rogers plan because Vance's remarks were made in the midst of the negotiations between Israel and Egypt, but the Rogers plan was presented as a guideline and also not during a time of practical contacts between Israel and an Arab country. The sources remarked that this U.S. move is unprecedented.

In the meeting the prime minister held with Ambassador Lewis yesterday, the prime minister was to emphasize that Israel will not be deterred by the U.S. pressure. Also present at the meeting were Defense Minister Weizman, the Foreign Ministry director general, Efrayim 'Evron, the government legal adviser, Aharon Baraq and the Foreign Ministry legal adviser, Me'ir Rosenne.

The prime minister does not have a plan to travel anytime soon for a meeting with President Carter. This was reported by reliable sources yesterday. Mr Begin intends to visit the United States only at the end of April in order to open the celebrations of the 30th anniversary, and he will then meet with Mr.Carter. A plan to advance the date of the meeting is not known at the moment.

President Carter's statement in Aswan about the Palestinian issue is not acceptable to the Government of Israel. This was made clear by authoritative sources yesterday in reaction to reports from Washington to the effect that As-Sadat and Carter have agreed that this statement will be the basis for the formulation of the Palestinian clause in the Israeli-Egyptian declaration of principles.

The Palestinian clause in the Aswan declaration says: "The Palestinian issue should be resolved in all its aspects. The solution will include a recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and will enable the Palestinians to participate in the determination of their own future."

One of the most important messages reaching Jerusalem in the wake of As-Sadat's visit in Washington is a U.S. request to consider the time element in the conduct of negotiations with the Egyptians, the element that drives As-Sadat into pushing for quick results.

The Americans have made it clear to Israel that As-Sadat is subject to the pressure of the rejectionist front and cannot conduct prolonged negotiations. Therefore, the United States is asking Israel to take these pressures into consideration.

Informed sources emphasized yesterday that Israel also wants to speed up the negotiations but that it is not to be expected that its consideration for the U.S. request will lead it to accept the ultimatumlike demands presented by the Egyptian president.

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER CARTER, VANCE STATEMENTS

TA121358Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By DAVAR political correspondent]

[Excerpt] Grave concern and indignation was expressed in Jerusalem yesterday in light of the recent remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and President Carter's statements after the meetings with President as-Sadat in Washington.

It is thought in Jerusalem that the U.S. statements, which constitute an expression of unilateral support for the Egyptian position, can only harm the process of negotiations between Israel and Egypt. It was mentioned that in the past such U.S. statements led to a toughening of the Arab position and not the flexibility required to reach a compromise acceptable to both sides. It is noted in Jerusalem that Vance's statement in fact constitutes a hardening of the U.S. position, even when compared with the Rogers plan, which left room for necessary border modifications for security reasons.

MINISTER, CHIEF RABBI ASSAIL VANCE STATEMENT

TA130639Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The world conference of the Beney 'Aqiva movement opened in Jerusalem yesterday. Most of the speakers firmly rejected the announcement by the U.S. secretary of state regarding the Israeli settlements in the territories. Interior minister Yosef Burg said that Vance is presenting the Rogers plan in a new form and that this plan, like the one preceding it, will not be accepted. It is not the settlements but those who are opposed to the settlements who disrupt the process of achieving peace, he said. Chief Rabbi Shelomo Goren said that the Israeli Government must not give up the right to settle everywhere in Eretz Yisra'el. MK Hayyim Druckman said that Secretary of State Vance can state what is legal or illegal in the United States but not in Israel.

U.S. ATTEMPT TO PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL REPORTED

NC120856Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[Text] How far can the U.S. administration go in pressuring Israel? Experts in Jimmy Carter's administration are now studying this problem Our correspondent in Washington, Eli Nissan, has learned from informed sources that experts in the Pentagon, the State Department and the CIA have been asked to submit continuous reports on this matter to the National Security Council. According to these sources, one of the things the administration is interested in is assessing the reactions of the Israeli leaders to the campaign to undermine Israel's credibility initiated by the administration.

The administration in Washington is attempting to create the impression of normal and friendly relations with Israel and is, at the same time, attacking Israel in private talks with Jewish leaders and with the supporters of Israel in the United States. The aim, according to the sources in Washington, is to maneuver Jerusalem into a position whereby it cannot react without leveling direct criticism at President Carter.

JERUSALEM CITES U.S. SOURCES ON VANCE STATEMENT

NC120742Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[Text] U.S. Congress sources have told our Washington correspondent that they are surprised that Israel has not demanded a clarification from the State Department on Secretary of State Vance's statement that the Israeli settlements in Sinai are illegal and that Israel should concede them.

These sources said that 2 weeks ago, Secretary Vance had reported to the House International Relations Committee and to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that he was attempting to formulate a compromise on the settlements. He has failed in his attempts, however, because President as-Sadat refused to negotiate on this. These sources indicated that Israel had agreed to the proposal and that Secretary Vance had conveyed Israel's agreement to Egypt. Now, they are asking, how can the U.S. secretary of state completely change his mind and, at the same time, continue to mediate between the parties.

DEFENSE MINISTER HALTS LAND DEVELOPMENT WORK

NC121230Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The institutions responsible for settlements have stopped all land preparation and development work in the Rafah salient and the Sinai approaches on the orders of Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that the military government in the area is refusing to give permission to the Jewish National Fund and other planning institutions to carry out any land preparation work. Heads of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department say that the military government is dealing with this matter on the explicit orders of the defense minister.

Our correspondent has also learned that land preparation work was carried out recently in the Al-'Arish Valley area, much beyond the Rafah Salient, under the guise of preparing sites for oil drillings. This work has also been stopped on the orders of Minister Weizman.

Our correspondent was told by the office of Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon that all the work which has been carried out in the Rafah salient and Sinai was carried out with the knowledge of the government. Work done behond the Rafah salient was also carried out with the knowledge of the government.

Order To Be Reviewed

TA121840Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Feb 78 TA

[Text] A senior source in the Defense Ministry told our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's instructions to halt land development work in Yamit and in other regions was a temporary order issued prior to his last visit to Cairo and it would soon be reviewed. Earlier our correspondent had reported that work had ceased a few days ago on the instructions of the defense minister and that the military government was not allowing bulldozers and tractors to work on the land.

Zippori Denies Order Issued

TA121942Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori this evening denied the report that the defense minister has instructed the settlement institutions to halt all work on ground preparations in the Yamit region. Mr Zippori told our correspondent Yigal Goren that no such instruction has been issued by the defense minister's office.

Yamit Work Freeze Confirmed

TA130636Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The Defense Ministry spokesman yesterday confirmed that at the end of last month an instruction was indeed given to freeze the ground preparation work in the Yamit area outside the existing settlements. The instruction was given at the government's decision. Our correspondent remarks that this announcement by the Defense Ministry spokesman was issued after Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori said on television that no instructions have been given to freeze the work in the Yamit region.

Weizman Explains Order

TA130841Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Dorit Gefen]

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman told our correspondent last night that he had instructed the suspension of the ground-breaking work in the Rafah approaches 3 weeks ago, but had not ordered it to be stopped entirely.

According to him, this was done in coordination with all elements involved in the matter and he expressed surprise that the issue has suddenly been brought up.

Plan for 25 Settlements

TA121442Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Nahum Barne'a]

[Text] A government plan to secretly and quickly establish 25 settlements in Sinai, several of which are far from the international border and the Rafah approaches, was frozen after the establishment of 6 such points that are not yet functioning as settlements.

According to reliable sources, the implementation of the plan was halted after U.S. observation aircraft discovered the Israeli activity and reported about them to Washington. U.S. planes conduct regular patrol flights over Sinai as part of the effort to supervise the implementation of the disengagement agreement with Egypt.

The government plan was worked out by Agriculture Minister Sharon and apparently with the participation of Foreign Minister Dayan. Under this plan the settlement farthest from the international border was intended to be set up on the Al-Qusaymah-Bi'r Lahfan road, about 40 km west of the international border and very far from what is today referred to as the Rafah approaches. The government preferred to call the settlements "observation posts" [tazpi'ot].

Two different sources who are familiar with the plan got the impression that it is aimed at setting up a chain of dummy settlements which Israel will be ready to give up at a later stage of the negotiations with Egypt, provided Egypt agrees to the continued presence of the Rafah approaches settlements. The settlement points far from the international border are therefore meant chiefly to serve as a lever in the negotiations.

The investment in these settlement points was to reach at least 40 million Israeli pounds. It appears that the U.S. Government considers the hurriedly conducted settlement operations, about which Israel has not reported to the United States, to be a violation of Israeli promises given to Washington regarding the fleshing out of settlements in the area of the Rafah approaches and an attempt at deception. It appears that the Egyptian Government also knows of this operation in Sinai.

Sources Deny Report

TA1214444Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Feb 78 pp 1, 8 TA

[By Nissim Qivviti, the YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent in Washington, and Arye Zimmuqi]

[Excerpt] Government sources this morning denied the report to the effect that the government had, as it were, frozen a plan to set up, "secretly and hurriedly," 25 settlements in Sinai and that the plan was halted after its manifestations had been discovered by U.S. observation aircraft. The sources said that no such thing exists.

SHARON SAYS SETTLEMENTS TRIPWIRE TO WARN OF ATTACK

TA122002Y Jerusalem POST in English 12 Feb 78 p 3 TA

[Text] Tel Aviv--Life in settlements across the international border would require a fortitude expected from volunteers to army units, Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon said here yesterday. "But I would not hesitate to appeal to Israelis to undertake to live there," Sharon added.

"We cannot accept a proposition which denies Jews their right to live anywhere in Eretz Yisra'el," Sharon said, referring to a U.S. statement that settlements in the areas are "illegal." He also criticizes former Prime Minister Yizhaq Rabin for saying, in a speech to the Commercial Club the previous day, that he "would not advise any Israeli to live beyond the limits of Israel's sovereignty."

The idea of keeping Jewish settlements in a 40-km-wide stretch east of the Al-'Arish-Ras Mohammad line was to warn off possible attacks from an Egyptian ruler who would not have As-Sadat's peaceful intentions, Sharon said. "The villages do not form a defensive zone, of course, but the Egyptians should know that by encroaching them, they would call forth an Israeli military reaction."

If there were no settlements, the Arabs could ignore pledges. For example, when ambushes stopped Israeli traffic to El-Hamma (though nominally in Israeli territory), the place was virtually lost, said the minister.

Sharon was speaking in a public interview he gave Hanna Zemer and Ari Rath, the editors of DAVAR and the Jerusalem POST, at ZOA [Zionist Organization of America] House yesterday.

WEIZMAN VISITS LEBANON BORDER, COMMENTS ON FIGHTING

TA101919Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1825 GMT 10 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The Israeli Government is following the worrisome events now taking place in Lebanon as a result of Syrian moves. This was stated by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman while visiting the border with Lebanon. Major Sa'd Haddad and Major (Shid'aq). The minister of defense was accompanied by the chief of staff, Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur, and the commanding officer of the northern command, Maj Gen Avigdor Ben Gal. Mr Weizman answered questions from our correspondent 'Amos Karmeli. [begin videotape]

[Question] Mr Weizman, what is the purpose of your visit here today?

[Answer] Heavy fighting has begun in northern Lebanon and Beirut. The Syrians appear to have the upper hand over the Christians there and there are serious fears that Lebanon, as we know it, might collapse even further. The Israeli Government has committed itself to these commanders--to Major (Shid'aq) and commander Haddad--that we would help them at any time they are concerned. The situation in the south has still--and I hope that it will stay like that--not deteriorated.

The chief of staff, myself and the commanding officer of the northern command have come here to see what we can do and how we can help--and let it be clear that the Israeli Government stands behind the salients in the south to help them at all times, and if possible we will try to insure that Lebanon remains as it is and does not become a part of Syria. [end videotape]

SHIM'ON PERES MEETS WITH AS-SADAT IN SALZBURG

NC111235Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Anwar as-Sadat and Shim'on Peres are now meeting in the Klescheim Castle in Salzburg. The meeting started about 1 hour ago. Upon his arrival in Salzburg, As-Sadat said: I am sure that there is now a momentum to continue the negotiations and to reach a final agreement. He noted that he is much more optimistic now than he was prior to his visit to Washington. The meeting between the Egyptian president and the chiarman of the Labor Party was arranged by Austrian Prime Minister Bruno Kreisky. Upon the conclusion of the meeting, President as-Sadat and Mr Peres are to appear before newsmen.

Prior to his departure for Europe, Shim'on Peres met with the prime minister and informed him of the possibility of his meeting with the Egyptian president.

Our correspondent in Salzburg, Micha'el Karpin, reports that hundreds of reporters from all over the world arrived this morning in Klescheim Castle in order to cover this meeting and that the Austrian Government has established a large news center at the castle.

Peres Comments on Meeting

TA111616Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Feb 78 TA

[Excerpt] Shim'on Peres said [at the press conference following his meeting with As-Sadat] that he was pleased with the opportunity given to him to resume the talks with As-Sadat. He met with him in November in Jerusalem.

He added that we have only one government, however, and I have no authority to conduct negotiations. Mr Peres pointed out tha e had informed Prime Minister Menahem Begin in advance of the possibility that he would meet with As-Sadat and Mr Begin gave his agreement. As-Sadat has invited Peres to visit Cairo.

Peres To Report To Begin

TA121613Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Moshe Meisels]

[Text] "I telephoned the prime minister yesterday and reported to him briefly about my talk with President as-Sadat in Salzburg. I will report the rest of the details to Mr Begin on my return to Israel tomorrow." Shim'on Peres, the head of the Labor Party, said this in a telephone conversation with MA'ARIV this morning from the hotel in Vienna in which he is staying.

"The talk between us lasted over 2 hours, "MK Peres added, "and was most candid and sincere. It covered the entire picture--the timetable connected with the events to date and the way President as-Sadat views the situation in the future. As-Sadat made it clear to me that he certainly intends to keep up the negotiations with Israel. I told him that I am not representing anyone or anybody except my own party and that I would report to the prime minister about the content of the talk on my return home. We agreed to keep the details of the talk secret."

I asked MK Peres, if, in the wake of his long talk with President as-Sadat, he is optimistic about the chances for the continuation of negotiations between Egypt and Israel. "I see many difficulties that should be overcome," Peres replied. "The whole matter should not be treated lightly. I believe it is possible to overcome the difficulties--if not all, then most of them."

I asked whether he had received the impression that this is also President as-Sadat's position and hope. MK Peres answered: "He is determined to continue the negotiations. It is clear to us all that there are hardships, but the impression is that it is possible to overcome most of them."

MK Peres said that President as-Sadat invited him to visit Egypt. About the question as to whether he intends to accept the invitation soon, MK Peres answered: "There is no rush at the moment. I first have to return home. Tomorrow I will report about the content of the talk to Mr Begin."

MA'ARIV's political correspondent reports: It is assumed in Jerusalem that in his talk Mr Peres identified completely with the government's position on the question of the Israeli settlements in the Sinai, settlements which, according to the claim of the Egyptians and Americans, constitute an obstacle on the road toward achieving a peace settlement between Israel and Egypt.

At today's cabinet meeting the prime minister will report on the content of the talk according to what he heard from MK Peres.

FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN COMMENTS ON U.S. DEMANDS

NC110805Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said in New York yesterday that to date the United States has not made any demands on Israel we cannot live with. Mr Dayan stressed, however, that he cannot pledge that this will be the state of affairs when the political contacts are resumed. He expects their resumption to take place next weekend.

State Department officials in Washington said yesterday that the joint Israeli-Egyptian committees can resume their work only after reaching a declaration of principles.

Comments on Israeli-Egyptian Talks

NC110642Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said in New York yesterday that the talks between Israel and Egypt will resume after next weekend. In a speech to the heads of the United Jewish Appeal, Minister Dayan expressed the opinion that President as-Sadat suspended the political talks with Israel not because they had reached a deadlock, but because a bilateral agreement was close, and this had frightened him. President as-Sadat's problem, added Dayan, is how to bring King Husayn to the negotiating table, and not the problem of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

Criticizes U.S. Position

TA130833Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 13 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan called on the United States not to supply Egypt with arms as long as a peace agreement is not reached in the Middle East. He said this in New York, at a ceremonial banquet given in honor of the [United Jewish Appeal] bonds activists.

Minister Dayan criticized the Washington administration, saying that he fears we have reached a situation where only Israel will be required to make more and more concessions without there being any progress in the negotiations with the Arabs. The foreign minister rejected this approach, saying that ultimately it is the Israeli Government that will decide on questions vital to its very existence. Minister Dayan also believes now that President as-Sadat indeed intends to reach a peace settlement with Israel. However, one of the major obstacles is As-Sadat's insistence on the participation of other Arab countries in the negotiations.

U.S. Jews' Reaction to Dayan

TA121659Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[By Dani'el Bloch]

[Excerpt] From reports reaching Israel from the United States it has become clear that several leaders of U.S. Jewry were greatly pained by remarks made by Foreign Minister Dayan at a meeting with the Presidents Conference of the Jewish Organizations. From talks some of the leaders held with Israeli personages at the end of the week, it transpires that they were particularly pained by Dayan's remarks to the effect that he respects the Shilo settlers more than he does Israelis who emigrate to Canada or U.S. Zionists who do not immigrate to Israel.

According to these reports, Dayan, in his appearance, was nervous and arrogant and left the impression that he did a lot for the Jews, some of whom expressed themselves in sharp terms against him in private talks. In their opinion, Dayan's lecture campaign in the United States may cause damage now rather than bring any benefits.

HERUT GROUP DEMANDS TALKS WITH EGYPT BE BROKEN OFF

TA121948Y Jerusalem POST in English 12 Feb 78 p 2 TA

[Text] An opposition group within the Herut party last night called on the government to drop its "so-called" peace plan and break off negotiations with Egypt.

Referring to the cabinet meeting this morning, the group, headed by Ge'ula Kohen, MK, claimed that Israel's deteriorating political position is due to the government's peace programme. Breaking off negotiations is the only possible answer to Washington adopting the Egyptian position calling for an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 lines, a group spokesman said.

The spokesman further claimed that the U.S. is attempting to drive a wedge between world Jewry and Israel.

RABIN ATTACKS GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT POLICY

TA101930Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1825 GMT 10 Feb 78 TA

[Text] MK Yizhaq Rabin today severely attacked the manner in which the government is conducting the negotiations with Egypt. Rabin criticized the fact that the government was encouraging settlements in regions which, it is clear, will be handed over to Egyptian sovereignty upon the signing of an agreement. Mr Rabin was speaking at the Commercial and Industrial Club in Tel Aviv and our correspondent Dan Raviv reports on his remarks. [Begin videotape]

[Rabin] I do not agree, in principle, that the Israeli Government can agree to Israeli settlement in territory which we are going to return to an Arab country. To me this is a new interpretation of Zionism. I understood that Zionism came to redeem the people of Israel and Eretz Yisra'el and to settle Jews in the land slated to be the land of the Jews. One can leave pending a situation, as the government proposes, with respect to Judaea and Samaria. We do not agree as yet about the borders of sovereignty. We are leaving the decision as to when sovereignty is to be determined until a certain period of time passes. However, to say that we are returning sovereignty and calling upon Israelis to settle, this is something new for me. I will not recommend to any Israeli to go and settle in territory the State of Israel will willingly return to Egyptian sovereignty. [end videotape]

ALLON SAYS VANCE REMARKS DAMAGE U.S. ROLE

TA121722Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon says that Cyrus Vance's remarks about the settlements in the Sinai and on the future of Judaea and Samaria damage the status of the United States as a mediator. A mediator cannot impose a position on one of the sides. At a press conference at Kibbutz Ginnosar MK Allon said that the government's autonomy plan is bad and he has his own proposal. Autonomy in the territories would be based not on the delegation of authority by the Israeli governor but on a treaty between Jerusalem and Amman with the participation of representatives of the residents.

JERUSALEM SPECULATES ON MILITARY COMMITTEE TALKS

NC120636Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Feb 78 NC

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] According to what was agreed between Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Egyptian War Minister 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, the military negotiations will be resumed in Cairo soon after As-Sadat's return from his tour of the United States and Europe. News agencies had reported last weekend that the Egyptian Government had decided to make the continuation of the military talks conditional on the progress of the Political Committee. Our military correspondent Roni Dani'el reports: [begin recording]

The Egyptian Government is not making the continuation of the military talks conditional on any progress toward the convocation of the Political Committee. The reports coming from Cairo last weekend that the Egyptian Government had decided to impose such conditions are unfounded. The Israeli representation in Cairo is continuing its routine activities and the Egyptians are cooperating with it as before. It is not to be discounted that this week, or by the beginning of next week, the level of the Israeli representation in Cairo will be raised. In other words, it is possible that Maj Gen Avraham Tamir, head of the Planning Division of the General Staff, will arrive in Cairo for preparatory talks which will precede, by several days, the resumption of the Military Committee deliberations with the participation of all its members at At-Tahirah Palace in Cairo.

Following two rounds of talks and the preparatory work already carried out by Major General Tamir, almost all the topics slated for discussion are about to be solved. An agreement on the question of demilitarization is possible, as well as on the question of the airports. The only topic over which there is still prfound disagreement is the question of settlements. In the talks which have been held, almost all the possibilities have been explored within the framework of the declared attitudes of both countries, and only mutual moves can enable a bridging of the gaps on these differences as well. [end recording]

MORNING PRESS ON U.S. STATEMENT, ISRAELI RESPONSE

TA130829Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Feb 78 TA

[Peview of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] Most of the papers discuss the announcement by the U.S. secretary of state and Israel's reaction to it in the cabinet meeting yesterday.

HAZOFE is of the opinion that the recent developments do not mean that a second front for Israel has opened on the side of the United States. Statements have been made and have gone with the wind. Among these one can list the statement about the Rogers plan and other statements denouncing Israel's position. The struggle is long and hard. One needs patience in order to stand up to this struggle, not on a signle front but on several fronts simultaneously.

DAVAR says that the harsh reaction of the Israeli Government to the harsh remarks by the U.S. secretary of state turns us 360 degrees back to the political starting position prior to the days of sweeping enthusiasm following As-Sadat's peace initiative. The paper also writes that in order to improve Israel's image among the U.S. public a reassessment of Israel's position and the autonomy plan is needed. Information campaigns such as Moshe Dayan's, which, incidentally, has not been marked with success, or those of other ministers will not be able to correct the wrong.

HA'AREZ says that the government's protest against Mr Vance's remarks is justified. However, the government should know that any step beyond the framework of its original plan may cause us political damage. After all, we have no interest in returning to the Geneva conference, and, if we prefer to circumvent that forum, we must avoid moves that would unnecessarily make it difficult for President as-Sadat to find his way back to direct negotiations with us. We will not be able to face a political campaign against the United States if we behave in our relations with the Arab countries as if we lacked wisdom and reason.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that we should indeed reject the grave tendencies in the U.S. policy. However, we should quite equally demand that the government basically change its position and base it, on all fronts, on Resolution 242, namely, on inevitable border modifications in the framework of a peace settlement.

HAMODI'A says that the government, in its announcement yesterday, left an opening for the United States to reconsider its approach and position. It is doubtless that the government should now open an energetic information campaign in the United States to show the zig-zags characterizing the U.S. position.

Afternoon Press Comment

TA130931Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 13 Feb 78 TA

[Review of afternoon press editorials]

[Text] MA'ARIV writes about the government's protest against the remarks made by the U.S. secretary of state regarding the withdrawal and the settlements, saying the protest will be of no avail if it is not accompanied by practical manifestations. The paper is of the opinion that the government should tell Vance's assistant, Alfred Atherton, that it would be preferable that he stay in Washington now until the U.S. intentions and status as a mediator are clarified.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT reminds the prime minister of the announcement he made 2 weeks ago that we have not chained ourselves to our peace plan and that if As-Sadat rejects it we can cancel it and propose another plan instead. In light of the remarks by Carter and Vance, on the one hand, and of As-Sadat, on the other, the paper believes that the condition set by Mr Begin has come true. Therefore, we should not settle for angry announcements and should first shelve Israel's peace plan, the plan that has already been thrown into the garbage can by others.

SECURITY FORCES UNCOVER DPFLP TERRORIST CELL

TA121846Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The security forces have uncovered a terrorist cell of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP], led by Hawatimah. Seven terrorists have been arrested, including a woman. All are residents of (Dahariyah) in the Hebron district. Among other things, the group is thought to be responsible for the explosion in the Beersheba market which injured 29 people.

BANGLADESH

ZIA DEPARTS 12 FEB FOR SYDNEY COMMONWEALTH MEETING

BK121148Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 12 Feb 78 BK

[Text] President Zia left Dacca this morning for Sydney to attend the summit of the 12 Commonwealth regional countries beginning there tomorrow. The president was accompanied by his adviser for foreign affairs, Prof Shamsul Haq; the additional foreign secretary and a number of officials. This is the first time Bangladesh is attending a regional Commonwealth conference of South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific countries.

Before leaving, the president told newsmen at the airport that he will raise at the conference a number of issues, including exploitation of solar energy and food reserves and disaster control. He will also discuss possible future cooperation among the participating countries. A number of international issues will also come up for discussion.

President Zia said he will have the opportunity of renewing and establishing contacts with the participating Commonwealth leaders and will discuss bilateral issues with them.

The 4-day summit is expected to help identify issues of common interest by an exchange of views and consultations at the regional level.

The vice president, Mr Justice Abdus Sattar, members of the Council of Advisers, diplomats and high civil and military officials were present at the airport to see him off.

Stopovers in Thailand, Singapore

BK130238Y Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 12 Feb 78 BK

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman has said mutual cooperation between Bangladesh and Thailand will make a significant contribution to the progress and prosperity of the people of the two countries and of the region as a whole. The president was talking to the Thai prime minister, Gen Kriangsak Chamanan, at the Bangkok airport during his brief stopover en route to Sydney to attend the regional meeting of the Commonwealth heads of government beginning tomorrow. He said Bangladesh gives great importance to its relations with Thailand, especially because of the historical and cultural links between the two countries.

The president expressed satisfaction at the general trade and air services agreements reached between the two countries. He also took note of the broad understanding reached on the joint ventures in sea fishing and said all this will promote trade and communications between them.

He described the recent visit of the union parishad [council] chairmen of Bangladesh to Thailand as very useful. He expressed satisfaction at the Thai Government's cooperation in the setting up of a center for the integrated rural development for Asia and the Pacific in Comilla.

Welcoming the Bangladesh president, the Thai premier said President Zia is held in high esteem in his country. He referred to many similarities between the two countries.

The Thai premier spoke on a possible exchange of experts on tourism and said that visits of tourists from Thailand to Bangladesh will be arranged for the purpose of strengthening the bonds of friendship between the two people.

Apart from the Thai prime minister, General Kriangsak, the Bangladesh president was welcomed at the airport by the members of Kriangsak's cabinet and heads of diplomatic missions. The king was represented by his [words indistinct].

President Zia arrived in Singapore from Bangkok this afternoon. He was received at the airport by the chief of protocol and the military secretary of the Singapore president. The military secretary conveyed the greetings of the Singapore president, Mr Bejamin Sheares, to President Zia.

The Bangladesh president requested him to convey his best wishes and thanks to the Singapore president for the excellent arrangements made during his brief stopover in Singapore.

The president later left Singapore for Australia.

INDIA

DESAI DEPARTS FOR SYDNEY MEETING, STOPS IN SINGAPORE

BK1211124Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister Mr Morarji Desai, is on his way to Sydney to attend the regional conference of the heads of Commonwealth countries of Asia and the Pacific. He is accompanied by the minister for external affairs, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the foreign secretary, Mr Jagat Metha; and other senior officials. Twelve countries are to participate in the 4-day meeting, which begins tomorrow.

Mr Desai, who arrived at Singapore early this morning, left for Sydney after a brief halt.

Earlier before his departure from Madras, Mr Desai told newsmen that the conference will discuss economic cooperation among the countries of the region. The main effort will be to establish friendly relations among the countries of Asia and the Pacific region.

Referring to the coming assembly elections, Mr Desai said the poll prospects of the Janata Party are good. But, he said, it is unwise to make any forecast now. He said the center has not slowed down in its duty in the matter of the Sarkaria report on the alleged corruption of the former Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr Karunanidhi, and some of his ministerial colleagues.

He said that the reported allegation that his son was involved in the liberalization or imports of polyester fiber to favor certain vested interests is a first-class lie.

Earlier addressing a public meeting at Tunkur in Karnataka, Mr Desai made it clear that commissions of inquiry have not been appointed to take revenge or harass anybody. He said the commissions will expose wrongdoings so that the people will know about them and will not allow them to be repeated.

Mr Desai refuted the claim of Mrs Gandhi that she is a champion of scheduled casts, scheduled tribes, minorities and other weaker sections and said that the condition of these people deteriorated in the last 11 years when Mrs Gandhi was in power. Mr Desai said that his government is determined to eradicate untouchability in the next 5 years.

Mr Desai also refuted the claim of Mrs Gandhi that the emergency has done good to the country and asked: What good had it done? He said the emergency had destroyed democracy in the country.

Mr Desai assured the people that enough safeguards will be provided in the constitution so that in the future no government will take away freedom. He said the Janata Party will do everything possible to see that people become fearless so that they themselves can protect democracy.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON MPR MINISTER'S VISIT

BK1016O5Y Delhi ISI in English 1432 GMT 10 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The following is the joint communique issued at the end of the visit to India to His Excellency M. Dugersuren, the minister of foreign affairs of the Mongolian People's Republic [MPR] on February 10:

At the invitation of the minister for external affairs of the Republic of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, His Excellency Mangalyn Dugersuren, the minister of foreign affairs of the Mongolian People's Republic, paid an official and friendly visit to India from February 6 to 10, 1978.

The foreign minister of the Mongolian People's Republic called on His Excellency N. Sanjeeva Reddy, the president of the Republic of India, and conveyed to him a message from His Excellency Yumjaagiyn Tsendenbal, chairman of the Presidium of the Great People's Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic.

The foreign minister of the Mongolian People's Republic called on His Excellency Morarji Desai, the prime minister of the Republic of India, and conveyed to him an official invitiation from His Excellency Jambyn Batmonh, the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic, to the prime minister of India to visit Mongolia at a mutually convenient time. His excellency the prime minister of India accepted the kind invitation.

During their stay in India the foreign minister of the Mongolian People's Republic and his party visited the Beas-Sutlej link, a multipurpose river project in Himachal Pradesh and also visited Chandigarh. At Chandigarh, his excellency the foreign minster was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by the ministers of the government of Punjab.

The foreign minister of the Mongolian People's Republic and the minister of external affairs of the Republic of India held two rounds of talks during which they exchanged views on bilateral relations as well as on current international issues of mutual interest. The talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship, cordiality and complete mutual understanding. The two sides noted with deep satisfaction the close similarity of approach of the two sides on various issues of international concern.

The two foreign ministers expressed their satisfaction at the continuing fruitful development of relations of friendship and cooperation between Mongolia and India. They affirmed the determination of their governments to further strengthen and expand the cultural, trade, political and other ties between the two countries in the spirit and on the basis of the principles embodied in the joint declaration issued in 1973 at the time of the visit to India of His Excellency Yumjaagiyn Tsendenbal. As a manifestation of this desire, the two foreign ministers welcomed the signing of the Indian-Mongolian trade agreement by the foreign minister of the Mongolian People's Republic and the commerce minister of India and the signing of the cultural and scientific agreement by the foreign minister and the minister of education, social welfare and culture of India.

The foreign minister of the Mongolian People's Republic informed the minister of external affairs of the Republic of India of the achievements recorded by the Mongolian people in their economic and cultural development and also acquainted him with the activities of the Mongolian People's Republic in the field of foreign policy. The minister of external affairs of the Republic of India expressed his government's deep appreciation of the successes achieved by the Mongolian people under the leadership of the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic in social and economic development.

The foreign minister of India informed the foreign minister of the Mongolian People's Republic about developments in India leading to the formation of the new government on the mandate of the Indian people and the political, social and economic programmes of the Government of India. He also explained the various measures taken by the Government of India to develop the economy and for the improvement of the living standards of the Indian people.

Reviewing the international situation, the two foreign ministers stressed the need for preserving, consolidating and spreading the process of detente to all parts of the world. In this connection, the two sides recognised that mutually beneficial cooperation among the Asian states must be developed and extended in order to ensure lasting peace and stability on the continent. To this end, relations between states should be developed on the basis of generally recognised principles of international relations such as renunciation of the use of force or threat of force, respect for each other's sovereignty and the inviolability of frontiers, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, cooperation in economic and other fields on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and the right of each people to choose their own political and social systems. The acceptance of these principles in interstate relations would contribute to the transformation of Asia into a continent of durable peace and to the strengthening of peace in the whole world.

In reviewing the situation in South Asia, the two foreign ministers noted with satisfaction that steps towards solving differences through bilateral negotiations between the countries of the region had led to significant improvements in the climate of good neighbourliness and expressed their confidence that further steps towards promoting beneficial cooperation would make a useful contribution towards peace and stability in the region. The Mongolian foreign minister appreciated the constructive role that India plays in this respect.

The two foreign ministers noted the important role played by the nonaligned nations in promoting international peace and cooperation.

The two foreign ministers reaffirmed their support for the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and called upon all the parties concerned to constructively cooperate in achieving this objective.

The two foreign ministers felt that the situation in west Asia continued to pose a serious threat to world peace. They reaffirmed the necessity of urgently moving towards a just settlement of the problem on the basis of the total withdrawal of Israel from all the territories occupied by it since 1967 and the restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. The two foreign ministers condemned Israeli policy and practice in the occupied territories. They considered such a policy as a serious violation of the Charter of the United Nations as well as a grave threat to peace.

The two foreign ministers stressed the need for creating conditions that would facilitate the peaceful reunification of Korea in conformity with the aspirations and interests of the Korean people and the establishment of lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The two foreign ministers expressed serious concern over the continuing arms race with its arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. Both Mongolia and India stood for general and complete disarmament, including nuclear disarmament and for the realization without delay of concrete measures in this field. The two sides stressed the urgency of early progress in genuine disarmament and the diversion of resources from the futile arms race to peaceful development and to meeting the needs, particularly of the developing countries. The two sides expressed the hope that the forthcoming special session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament will significantly contribute to the cause of general and complete disarmament.

The two foreign ministers expressed their firm support for the early establishment of the new international economic order on the basis of sovereign equality, equity and justice.

The two foreign ministers reiterated their firm support to the struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia for national liberation. They expressed the determination of their governments and people to continue to lend full moral, political and material support to the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa in their struggle against the forces of colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

The two sides reiterated their faith in the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and reaffirmed their determination to contribute to the strengthening of the UN's role and its effectiveness.

The two ministers expressed confidence that the visit of the Mongolian foreign minister and the talks held and the agreements signed during the visit would promote the further development of the longstanding friendly relations and cooperation between Mongolia and India.

The foreign minister of the Mongolian People's Republic expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of India for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to him and to the members of his party. On behalf of the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic, the Mongolian foreign minister extended an invitation to Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the minister for external affairs of the Republic of India, to pay an official visit to Mongolia. The invitation was accepted with thanks.

PAKISTAN

UAE PRESIDENT MEETS WITH GENERAL HAQ 9 FEB

BK0913Z4Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 9 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator [CMLA] Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who arrived in Rahimyar Khan on a brief visit today, had a meeting with the president of the United Arab Emirates, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, at the Abu Dhabi Palace.

They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest at the meeting, which lasted more than 1 hour. The CMLA attended a lunch given by the UAE president.

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